

Laura

Ingalls (aviator)

FBI file

RGL:EAL  
67-134083

October 2, 1939

Miss Laura Ingalls  
121 Station Road  
Great Neck  
Long Island, New York

Dear Miss Ingalls:

I have your letter of September 13, 1939, addressed to Mr. Nathan, wherein you again offer your services to the Federal Bureau of Investigation during the present emergency.

At present, it is not contemplated that the investigative work in this Bureau will be performed by any other than regularly appointed special agents. Appointment is limited to male applicants.

However, I want to express my deep appreciation of your offer of assistance, and I assure you that it has been recorded for reference in the event it is found possible to utilize your services in the future.

Sincerely yours,

(By J. Edgar Hoover)

TRUE COPY  
mae

100-34712-142  
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K-46

Ingalls

121 Station Road  
Great Neck  
Long Island, N. Y.

September 13, 1939

Mr. Harold Nathan, Assistant Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Nathan:

Please accept my thanks for your acknowledgment of August 25th to my letter offering my services to the FBI.

In view of the tremendous developments throughout the world during the past weeks, it seems inconceivable that there is nothing which a woman of intelligence, education and background could do to help safeguard the interests of this country in the present crisis.

I again renew my offer.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Laura Ingalls

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mae

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A-40

AHC:MDM  
67-134083-1

August 25, 1939

Miss Laura Ingalls  
121 Station Road  
Great Neck, Long Island  
New York

Dear Miss Ingalls:

With reference to your letter of August 20, 1939, you are advised that there are no positions in the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the nature to which you refer.

However, your letter and the accompanying enclosure have been made a part of the records of this Bureau to be given consideration in the event it is possible to utilize the services of one with your ability at some future date.

Very truly yours,  
For the Director

Harold Nathan  
Assistant Director

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mae

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121 Station Road  
Great Neck  
Long Island, N. Y.

August 20, 1939

J. Edgar Hoover, Esq.  
Director Bureau Federal Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

Could you by any chance use in your organization the services of a woman flyer?

I own two airplanes and have been flying ten years without a crack-up. I have 2,300 solo hours on all types of aircraft. I am without immediate family and am free to go anywhere at any time.

Since the Army, Navy and Airlines have recently so absorbed Aviation activity, there is literally no chance for a woman to secure a job in flying. I need such a job if I wish to continue to fly - which I do.

It occurred to me that in some way I might be able to work for you through the medium of my airplanes and perhaps serve my country as well - something I long to do; - even though I am a woman - even in times of peace.

I fly down to Washington every now and then and could arrange to see you at your convenience if you think there is something I could do.

I am quite serious - and I hope that you will consider this letter in that light and be kind enough to let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Laura Ingalls

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mae

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6/12/48  
8-40

Records and Resume of Flying Career of

LAURA INGALLS

N.B. All flying listed below carried out Solo

- December 23, 1928 - Soloed on Roosevelt Field, Mineola, Long Island, N.Y.  
June 1929 - Enrolled in Universal Flying School, Lambert-St. Louis Field  
September 1929 - Obtained Limited Commercial License from Department of Commerce  
April 12, 1930 - " Transport license - 15th woman in U.S. " " "  
Graduated from Universal Flying School Transport course with  
mark of 98 - only girl in the School.
- May 4, 1930 - Established Women's Loop record in D. H. Gipsy Moth over  
Lambert-St. Louis Field - 344 loops. Previous record 47 loops.
- May 26, 1930 - Bettered first loop record at Muskogee, Okla. by making 980  
consecutive continuous loops in 3:40 (D. H. Gipsy Moth)
- August 13, 1930 - Established World barrel-roll record for men and women of 714  
rolls over Lambert-St. Louis Field. (D. H. Gipsy Moth)
- August-Sept. 1930 - Won third place Women's Dixie Derby from Washington, D. C. to  
Chicago, Ill. Prize \$800.
- October 1930 - Established first Women's Transcontinental round trip record  
between Roosevelt Field and Grand Central Air Terminal, Glen-  
dale, California and return. Time 30:25 to California;  
25:20 on return flight to Roosevelt Field. Airplane: D. H.  
Gipsy Moth.
- January 1934 - Granted 3rd Class Radio Telephone license with authority to  
use code. Call letters K H T J Q
- February 28, 1934 - Took off from North Beach Airport, Jackson Heights, L. I. in  
Lockheed Air Express for flight to South America.
- March 8, 1934 - Took off from Miami for Havana, Cuba. Crossed the Caribbean  
Sea to Merida, Yucatan. Continued down through Central America  
to France Field, Cristobal, Canal Zone.
- March 13, 1934 - Flew non-stop from France Field, Cristobal, C.Z. to Talara, Peru,  
a distance of 1296 miles - 460 miles over water. Continued  
down the West Coast of South America to Santiago, Chile.
- March 21, 1934 - The Andes were crossed at an altitude of 18,000 ft. through the  
Uspallata Pass between Santiago, Chile and Mendoza, Argentina.  
N.B. This is the first solo flight by an American woman over  
these formidable mountains and has only been accomplished  
previously by two other women. (German and French)

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The flight continued to Buenos Aires and up the East coast of South America, touching at Para, at the mouth of the Amazon, Paramaribo, in the jungles of Dutch Guiana, Port of Spain, Trinidad and up through the West Indies to Miami.

April 22, 1934 - Arrived Miami, Florida.

April 25, 1934 - " New York, Floyd Bennett Field, completing 17,000 mile flight.

Records established on South American flight:

The longest solo flight ever made by a woman - 17,000 miles

The first solo flight by a woman from North to South America

The first solo flight around South America by man or woman

The first complete flight by a land plane around South America by man or woman.

The first land plane to negotiate the perilous route up the East coast of South America.

The first American woman to fly the Andes solo.

(Miss Ingalls was awarded the Harmon Trophy for Women in 1934 for this outstanding achievement).

January 26, 1935 - Obtained S. A. T. R. license at Union Air Terminal, Burbank, California. Test given by James H. Kinney, Department of Commerce inspector and specialist in blind flight and radio experiment for the Government.

N.B. This is the first time this license has been issued to a woman.

February 1, 1935 - Took delivery on Lockheed ORION NR 14222.

Low wing monoplane. Retractable landing gear; Pratt & Whitney Wasp (supercharged); Hamilton controllable propeller; air brakes (flaps); Sperry Gyro Pilot; Westport radio compass and receiver. Gas capacity 630 gallons; oil 40 gallons. Range - 3500 miles.

This is the first time a woman has operated an airplane of this type equipped with the most modern mechanical devices either in the United States or in Europe.

July 11, 1935 - Established non-stop record from Floyd Bennett Field to Union Air Terminal, Burbank, Cal. Time: 18:19 (Lockheed ORION) The first woman to make this flight establishing an initial record for Women from East to West.

The flight surpassed the previous Men's record by 5½ hours.

N.B. The East to West non-stop flight has only been accomplished twice before in the history of flying in the United States.

September 12, 1935 - Non-stop flight from Union Air Terminal, Burbank, Cal. to Floyd Bennett Airport, New York - Time: 13:34:05. This flight surpassed Miss Earhart's non-stop record in 1932 by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours and her two stop record by approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Miss Earhart's transcontinental records were the only previous records for the transcontinental route established for Women. (Lockheed ORION).

N.B. Both East to West and West to East records for non-stop flight for Women are held by Lockheed ORION NR 14222.

The East to West record however is for both men and women..

...October 28, 1935.....

(P.S.)

September 1936 - Won 2nd Prize in Bendix Race - \$2500  
New York to California Solo  
Time: 15:15  
Ship: Lockheed ORION.

May 1938 - Instrument Rating from CAA  
(Blind flight & Radio technician)

1938 - Precision Acrobatics  
Exhibition on West Coast

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DAF:lem  
100-34712-28

September 9, 1941

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Berle:

As of possible interest to you there is enclosed herewith a memorandum setting forth information available regarding Miss Laura Ingalls, well-known American aviatrix. This matter is being brought to your attention in view of information indicating that Miss Ingalls possibly in company with other persons may try to travel to Germany and assist that country in its propaganda campaign.

It is requested that any information in your possession that would tend to substantiate the reports regarding the sympathies of Miss Ingalls, as well as information regarding any recent application for a passport, be furnished this Bureau.

Inquiries are being made to determine the extent of the activities of Miss Ingalls, and upon the receipt of reports copies will be designated for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Drayton \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
★ SEP 9 1941 ★  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

221.24

*Handwritten signatures and initials, including "J. Edgar Hoover" and "F. B. I."*

*Handwritten "17" and other markings.*

DAF:lem

September 9, 1941

**M E M O R A N D U M**

RE: LAURA<sup>D</sup> INGALLS

Laura Ingalls, a well-known American aviatrix, addressed a letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on August 30, 1939, stating that she was interested in obtaining a position in view of the fact there was no chance for a woman to secure a job flying for the Army, Navy or commercial airlines. She stated at that time that she had been flying for a period of ten years and had 2,300 solo hours on all types of aircraft, in addition to owning personally two airplanes.

Attached to this letter was a resume of Miss Ingalls' flying career, indicating that on December 23, 1928, she made her first solo flight at Roosevelt Field, Mineola, Long Island, New York. In June, 1929, she enrolled in the Universal Flying School located at Lambert-St. Louis Field, St. Louis, Missouri. She obtained her limited commercial license from the Department of Commerce in September, 1929, and her transport license on April 12, 1930. Subsequent to that time, during the year 1930, she established several world records for women flyers. In January, 1934, Miss Ingalls was granted a third-class radio telephone license with authority to use code and was furnished with the code letters K H T J Q. In 1934 she also made an extended air tour through Central and South America of over 17,000 miles and set various records in solo flights for women. As a result of this activity she was awarded the Harmon Trophy for Women.

On January 26, 1935, Miss Ingalls obtained S. A. T. R. license at Burbank, California, and had been given tests by James H. Kinney, Department of Commerce inspector and specialist in blind flight and radio experiment for the Government.

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Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Grayson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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100 - 34712-8  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
3 SEP 22 1941  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

On February 1, 1935, Miss Ingalle took delivery on a Lockheed Orion, NR 14322, which is a low wing monoplane. With this plane she established several non-stop records for flying from Floyd Bennett Field, New York City, to the Union Air Terminal, Burbank, California, and in 1936 won second prize of \$2,500 in the Bendix Race from New York to California. (SXXKXGEX)

In May, 1938, Miss Ingalle received her instrument rating from the Civil Aeronautics Authority as a result of her qualifying in blind flying and radio technician work. In the same year she engaged in precision aerobatic exhibitions on the West Coast.

The above-mentioned letter from Miss Ingalle reflected that she was residing at 121 Station Road, Great Neck, Long Island, New York, at that time. (67-134083)

The New York Times dated September 29, 1939, reported that Catherine Curtis, who allegedly has Fascist leanings and affiliations, and Laura Ingalle vainly sought a hearing before a Senate Committee. It was understood that this request for a hearing was related to the distribution of propaganda from an airplane in the vicinity of the White House by Miss Ingalle, and that Miss Curtis was in some way involved in this transaction. (61-7560-4535)

On April 9, 1941, information was received from a confidential source that Laura Ingalle made an appointment with Hans Thomsen, Minister Plenipotentiary and charge d'affaires ad interim of the German Embassy, Washington, D. C., for that afternoon. This appointment was apparently a part of the negotiation by Miss Ingalle to obtain a visa. (Conf file - 65-28688-220)

Information was received from a confidential source in Los Angeles, California on July 13, 1941, that close association with Laura Ingalle had determined that by her own statement she was raised by a German nurse until she was seven years of age; that her mother was German; and that she is pro-German. She stated in definite terms that she admires Hitler

and that it is her plan to fly to Washington and make arrangements to fly to London, England, on what she terms "a peace mission." From London it is her plan to fly to Berlin, Germany, and make peace proposals in both capitals. Miss Ingalle did not indicate that she had the financial backing or the political backing to carry out this project. She asked the informant if he would care to travel to Germany in view of the fact that there is much work to be done by Americans over there, especially by people who know how to use a typewriter and have a good command of the English language.

Laura Ingalle was observed by the informant to proceed to the Western Union Telegraph Office at Vermont and Washington Streets, Los Angeles, California, where she addressed a telegram to Dr. Hans Borchers, the German Consul in New York City, but the telegram was sent to San Francisco, California. No information was available as to the contents of the telegram or as to how Miss Ingalle signed her name. The informant further stated that following the sending of this telegram Miss Ingalle proceeded to [REDACTED]

The above events transpired during the evening of July 11, 1941, and between ten and ten thirty that evening Miss Ingalle received a Western Union telegram while in attendance at [REDACTED]. In connection with the receipt of this wire, Miss Ingalle allegedly stated that she was well acquainted with Dr. Hans Borchers and Captain Fritz Wiedemann, German Consul, San Francisco, California. She also indicated that she had offered her services to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on two occasions and stated that she wanted to do some writing in Germany to tell the American people the truth about conditions in that country.

Miss Ingalle further stated that it was her understanding that the Gestapo has a complete list of all the influential men in every large city in the United States.

what their vices are, whether they would be amenable to bribes and the approximate price necessary to obtain their favor. Typical among her statements praising Germany were:

"Germany is a building country. America is in chaos. The Germans have the best brains in the world and are the finest organizers. You will be surprised to see what they intend to do in Africa. They have scientific minds and there isn't a lazy bone in the body of a German."

[REDACTED]

7D

With reference to the statement by Miss Ingalls that she had offered her services to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Miss Eleanor Falt, 1480 Country Club Drive, Burbank, California, on July 3, 1940, called at the Los Angeles Office of the FBI and advised that she was publicity worker for Miss Laura Ingalls of the same address. She stated that Miss Ingalls owned two airplanes in which she flew around the country and met many influential people. The purpose of her call was to offer the services of Miss Ingalls in national defense matters. It would appear that the letter from Miss Ingalls referred to hereinbefore and the above contact comprise her offer of services to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on two occasions.

Information was received from a strictly confidential source that on August 24, 1941, Frau Bernhadine Wagner, wife of Fritz Wagner, messenger of the German Embassy, Washington, D. C., contacted Miss Julia Kraus, an employee of the Alley Dwelling Authority of the District of Columbia, who is alleged to possess strong pro-German sympathies. It was indicated at the time of this contact that Laura Ingalls and a Miss French were in Washington, D. C., and that both would like to fly to Germany on a good will tour to tell the German people that the Americans are not obtaining the truth. Frau Wagner indicated that she would try to find out all the necessary details involved in order that they might proceed to Germany. (Confile, Washington, D. C., August 25, 1941)

Information was received from this same source on August 17, 1941, that Miss Kraus contacted Frau Wagner

regarding Laura Ingalls who apparently flew to Washington, D. C., to speak before some Committee, possibly the America First Committee. Miss Kraus stated that there was no doubt whatsoever as to which side Miss Ingalls is on and that the latter was not paid for her services as was Kathleen Norris. Miss Kraus also stated that Laura Ingalls is trying to obtain backing from the Committee to start a lecture tour of her own but has had no success.

It was the opinion of Miss Kraus that the Committee was a money-making, grafting organization with no accounting of its funds, similar to the "Keep America Out of War Committee" organized by Representative Hamilton Fish of New York. Frau Wagner defended the Committee, stating that it could not come out in the open "because they would be arrested as foreign agents not registered in the State Department." Frau Wagner asked Miss Kraus why Ingalls had not gone directly to Charles Lindbergh for assistance, and the latter stated that Lindbergh himself was disgusted with the Committee.

Miss Kraus also described Miss Ingalls as comparable to Hitler in that she was a "little fuhrer." Kraus also furnished Frau Wagner with the address of Miss Ingalls, namely 42 Park Avenue, New York City, and stated that she expected to contact her soon. (Confidential, Washington, D. C. August 31, 1941)

Assistant Director E. J. Connelley

At this point, Miss Kraus indicated that Miss Ingalls was going to be in New York for another week or two. The reference Bureau letter furnished the New York address of Miss Ingalls as 42 Park Avenue. It is assumed that this is the address at which she can be reached. Miss Kraus during the above contact asked Wagner whether he wanted the address of Miss Ingalls in New York. He stated that this was not necessary and he preferred that Miss Kraus act as an intermediary.

In view of the above circumstances, it is believed that an immediate, thorough and discreet investigation be made into the activities of Laura Ingalls, in view of the fact that she may be transmitting information vital to the national defense effort to representatives of the German Government. The utmost caution should be exercised in this investigation since any leak would probably reflect the manner in which the original information was received. It is my intention to hold you personally responsible in this case to insure immediate and thorough investigation.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

CC: Washington

September 16, 1941

DAF:DMH  
100-34712

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PERSONAL AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

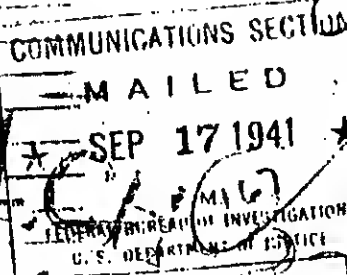
Dear Mr. Berle:

Further reference is made to my letter dated September 9, 1941, with which there was submitted considerable information regarding Miss Laura Ingalls, well-known aviatrix.

Information has been received from a strictly confidential source that an unidentified woman thought to be Julia Kraus contacted Fritz Wagner, messenger at the German Embassy, Washington, D. C., on September 2, 1941, at which time considerable discussion was had regarding a woman in New York City believed to be Laura Ingalls. Miss Kraus indicated that Ingalls was concerned about whether her letters were getting through since she had received no confirmation. Wagner assured Miss Kraus that the literature and letters forwarded by Miss Ingalls were being received. Wagner indicated that he did not want the New York address of Miss Ingalls since he preferred that Miss Kraus act as an intermediary and that he would prepare a letter on blank paper to avoid the use of official stationery which could be forwarded to Miss Ingalls by Miss Kraus as confirmation of her communication. From this contact it was obvious that Miss Ingalls was strictly in favor of the German cause and was continuing with her plan to fly to Germany if possible.

For your further information there is enclosed herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent J. J. McDonough, dated

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Drayton \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



September 3, 1941, at Los Angeles, California, regarding Laura Ingalls, Internal Security - G. It will be of interest to know whether Miss Ingalls has contacted the Department of State in an effort to obtain a passport for the purpose of traveling either to South America or Germany.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

LOS ANGELES

FILE NO. 100-6533

REPORT MADE AT <b>LOS ANGELES</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>9/3/41</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8/13, 26/41</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>J. J. McDONOUGH</b>
TITLE <b>LAURA INGALLS</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject, a well-known aviatrix, is reported to be very pro-German and is endeavoring to persuade informant to accompany her on a trip to South America and Germany where, with the aid of the German Government, subject will endeavor to get messages to the American public to convince them that Germany is doing the "right thing". Subject reported to have been in close contact with the German Consuls in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles and has recently left Los Angeles on a trip to Washington, D. C. and New York during which trip she expects to contact HANS THOMSEN, Charge De Affair, at German Embassy. She advised informant that she expected to leave for New York after August 27, 1941, where it would be "absolutely safe to write her at 42 Park Avenue".

- P -

**REFERENCE:**

Los Angeles letter to the Bureau July 25, 1941.

**DETAILS:**

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:

In reference letter to the Bureau this Office advised that on July 18, 1941, [redacted] submitted to this Office a report dated July 12, 1941 prepared for him by one of his informants whose identity was unknown to this Office. The report read as follows:

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 Washington 2 New York 2 Los Angeles COPIES DESTROYED 8/12/55		100-34712-2 SEP 8 1941 FIVE	RECORDED INDEXED 12/15/41
		1cc Bureau 9-16-41 oif	

I had dinner with LAURA INGALLS  
at [REDACTED] She told me: 7D

"I was raised by a German nurse until I was seven years old. My mother was German. I frankly admit I am pro-German. I have all the confidence in the world in you, and I know if I told this to the wrong person, I would get myself into trouble."

"She wanted to know where I stood and how I feel about being loyal to the United States. I felt it was best to play along with her and said that I love the United States but I feel that the present administration is bowing to the will of the British. She said, in that many words, that she admires HITLER; I told her that I thought a great deal of him too, especially because of his efficiency, etc., etc."

"She told me that she will fly to Washington and once this flight is accomplished, she will make arrangements to fly to London on what she terms 'a peace mission'. From London she intends to fly to Berlin. She would take peace proposals to both capitals. Nothing, during the course of the conversation, indicated whether she actually had the necessary backing for it. She asked me if I wanted to go along to Germany as, she put it, 'there is much work to be done by Americans over there, especially by people who know how to type and have a good command of English'. She knows that I can type."

"After we had finished eating, LAURA INGALLS went to the Western Union office on Vermont and Washington and sent off a telegram to DR. BORCHERS, the German Consul from New York. She addressed it to San Francisco. I don't know what was in it nor how it was signed."

"From the Western Union Office we went to [REDACTED] 7D  
[REDACTED] between 10 and 10:30 in the evening, INGALLS received a Western Union telegram at [REDACTED]. She read it and put it in her purse. I don't know what was in the telegram but it is reasonable to assume that it may be an answer to the wire she had sent."

"In connection with the wire she mentioned that she knows BORCHERS and WIEDEMANN very well."

"INGALLS also said that she had offered her services to the FBI twice. Further, she said that she wants to do some writing in Germany to tell the American people the truth about conditions in Germany."

"She said she understood that the Gestapo has a complete list of all the big men in every big city of the United States, what their vices are, whether they can be bought and what their price would be.

"She is full of praise for Germany. Typical is this statement: "Germany is a building country. America is in chaos. The Germans have the best brains in the world and are the finest organizers. You will be surprised to see what they intend to do in Africa. They have scientific minds and there isn't a lazy bone in the body of a German."

When submitting this report [REDACTED] made the following additional comment:

"The above report may or may not have any significance. Maybe the sending of the telegram was a trap. Informant did not see that the telegram was actually addressed to BORCHERS. INGALLS merely mentioned that the telegram goes to BORCHERS. Maybe INGALLS knows the party at the Western Union office and only wants to find out whether our informant would pass the above information on. This she could find out through the manager or clerk at the Western Union office if she does know him.

"Informant was instructed to play along with INGALLS as if informant were ready to accompany her on this very adventurous proposition."

The only information appearing in the files of this Office concerning subject was contained in Serial 285 of Los Angeles File 67-0-A entitled "OFFERS OF AID TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION" which reflected that on July 3, 1940 a Miss ELEANOR FAIT, 1480 Country Club Drive, Burbank, California came to this Office and advised she was a publicity worker for Miss LAURA INGALLS of the same address, who owned two airplanes and travelled considerably about the country. Miss FAIT stated that she and Miss INGALLS had recently been discussing the possibility of being of service to this Office and Miss FAIT was requested to submit any information of value which she might obtain.

In Los Angeles letter to the Bureau, the Bureau was also requested to advise the Los Angeles Office of any information regarding the subject appearing in the Bureau files.

On July 31, 1941 [REDACTED] submitted a report by his informant, dated July 21, 1941 reading as follows:

"On [redacted] I went to the home of LAURA INGALLS, 1840 Country Club Drive, Burbank. I arrived there at approximately 5 o'clock. When I reached there [redacted] was there [redacted] 7D

[redacted] She promised that she would attend. Her choice of the word 'attend' left [redacted] somewhat in the air and he didn't seem to feel too sure that she would come.

"There was an argument between [redacted] and INGALLS with regard to LINDBERGH and his qualifications as a leader. To my surprise, INGALLS said that LINDBERGH hasn't got the necessary qualifications. His biggest drawback is that he doesn't associate enough with the common people and that he is too willing to take orders from America First. She said that shows he hasn't got the stuff to be a leader. 7D

"INGALLS dropped a few subtle hints and [redacted] knew it was time for him to leave. The conversation which ensued then indicated that INGALLS still intends to go to Germany either by plane from South America to Dakar, then to Portugal and then to Germany or by boat. She asked if I was sincere in my desire to accompany her and if I was willing to make sacrifices. She said we may even have to give up our citizenship rights because we may not get any passports. She again repeated that there will be a lot of work for us to do. With regard to losing our American citizenship rights, she said that once HITLER wins America will be sympathetic to Germany, and pro-Germans will be in the saddle or get in the saddle very soon, and then there will be no difficulty for us in re-entering this country. 7D

"INGALLS said that she will get the cooperation of the German government to study conditions there and to be in a position to do useful work in Germany and 'if and when we return, we can tell the American people the truth about Germany'. She said 'While we are in Germany we might broadcast to America to report the true conditions.'

"She said she needs money and clothing to go over there. She said she is going to take several thousand dollars with her. She talked as if she knows definitely that she will get the cooperation from the German government. She told me to apply for a passport to go to South America and to say in the application for the passport, that it is a pleasure trip.

"She said that when she was in San Francisco she saw WIEDEMANN and in Washington she saw HANS THOMSEN, the German Charge de Affair, several times. THOMSEN told her that if she would go to South America, she will get the cooperation from the Italian Consulates too. She injected, 'of course, the Italians so what they are told by the Germans'.

"She is now looking for a Northrup plane. The plane she now owns, a Lockheed, is too small. The plane she intends to buy will cost around \$15,000. She has already looked over a few planes.

"The house she owns is financed by the F.H.A. and she wants to sell it and everything else she has here. This leads me to believe that she is ~~very~~ serious in her plans.

"Later in the conversation, it came out that she saw WIEDEMANN the same day that the press carried the news that the American government has demanded the recall of all German Consuls.

"She spoke to PATRICK CALHOUN at a dinner party. LILLIAN TROY SCOTT was also there. Mrs. SCOTT is supposed to know quite a great deal about England. CALHOUN is about 85 years old and likes to dabble in politics. He has a plan for the country to be taken over by people of intelligence and for the disfranchise of the common people. His idea is to get together 50 men who can be trusted and who have organizational talent. These 50 men would be sent to the 50 most important cities and there each one is to set up an organization of his own with 50 trusted leaders as aides. INGALLS didn't agree with CALHOUN'S idea. She believes in playing up to the common people, saying that 'the revolution in America will be started by the common people'.

"If INGALLS flies to Europe she will first go to Washington and see THOMSEN again. She said that THOMSEN expects her to contact him but warned her that he, THOMSEN, has to be careful.

"With regard to my getting a passport, she said that if I had trouble she could help me as she has some valuable contacts in the State Department.

"She made some uncomplimentary remarks about former Ambassador CUDAHY. She said he turned and is not on our side any longer.

"INGALLS was also promised some help by another member of the German Embassy in Washington with whom she had talked. She mentioned his name, but I don't recall it exactly. It was something like CLOUE or CLOCHE.


"INGALLS feels that the United States have gone too far and cannot be saved any more because the people won't arouse themselves to do something. She talks as if she is doing this country a great patriotic service by going to Germany to bring back the truth about National Socialism.

"INGALL'S brother is married to a niece of J. P. MORGAN. Through his wife he has become very pro-British and she does not correspond with him any more. She said she had been on the outs with her sister-in-law for many years.

"When it came to go out for dinner she suggested that we go

to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FD

handbills of a similar nature over Berlin, but the text of the handbill for Berlin will be written in such a fashion that the Berlin government would approve of it. Of course, she expects an awful lot of publicity out of the whole stunt and that it will make her known all over the world. She also dreams of bringing peace proposals back to America.

[REDACTED] 7D

"INGALLS wanted me to listen to her on the radio on Sunday, so that I could tell her what she sounds like.

"She told me that once she got to WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST and that wasn't very long ago. He was ready to finance her flight to Europe and then to let her work for the Hearst papers in Germany as a correspondent. She applied for a passport to go to Germany but when the State Department refused to issue one, HEARST did not want her to go but she offered to go even without the passport, but HEARST was afraid he might become involved in some unpleasant developments. She believes once she gets over to Germany, on her own, she can take up her contact with HEARST where she left off.

"INGALLS asked me to swear to her that I am ready to go through with her on her scheme. She has a passport to go to South America. She doesn't know as yet whether she will go to the Argentine or to Brazil. She said I needed at least \$1000 and clothes because clothing is scarce in Germany. While in the East INGALLS may do some flying for America First. On Saturday night no one of the America First Committee knew that General WOOD was here but LAURA INGALLS knew it from JOHN WHEELER.

"INGALLS told me that she would broadcast on Phelps' program next Thursday."

A further report from the same informant, dated July 26, 1941 reads as follows:

"[REDACTED] I went to [REDACTED] with LAURA INGALLS. There she told me that she will fly to Washington the coming week end. 7D

"She said she would speak for ELLIS O. JONES next Wednesday. She doesn't like to do it but he has gotten out his announcements already, mentioning her name.

[REDACTED] 7D

[REDACTED] ID

"THOMSEN told INGALLS never to write to him because that is too dangerous. INGALLS said when she gets to Washington there will be some difficulty to get to THOMSEN without being watched. She said, 'too bad you can't come along to Washington with me so that you can establish the contact with THOMSEN instead of me. I am too well known and you are not known at all'. She continued, 'When I was in Oakland I was watched and followed all the time'.

"INGALLS said that she saw General WOOD last Wednesday and she will do some flying and deliver some speeches for America First in the East. She will see the General again in Chicago. She said she is not asking America First for any money to back her flight but she wants America First to officially sponsor it so that I can speak with authority when I say that 80% of all the American people are in back of me.

"INGALLS will be back here in about three weeks and when she returns she wants to go and see WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST. She expects me to make the necessary arrangements.

"INGALLS is going to see PATRICK CALHOUN tonight for dinner. I suspect that she will try to get some money out of him. CALHOUN apparently knows something about her intended flight but feels that an organization should be in back of it and that is probably the explanation of her statement that she wants America First to back her officially. She seems pretty confident that America First will back her and this confidence apparently is based upon her statement that General WOOD feels that now is the time when only spectacular things can be effective.

"She said that once we get to Germany we will live in the same quarters. America soon will fall into chaos, then will come the New Order and the pro-Germans are going to be on top. Because of that, we will have no trouble in coming back to the United States, even though we do leave the country without the proper passport and visa. She said people who have talent for leadership should go to Germany and learn their system so that they can come back and help in rebuilding America. She said while in Germany 'we will be plenty busy writing material and getting the message out...That will be the most important task...We can serve our country best by working for better relations between Germany and the United States.'"

A report dated July 28, 1941 advises of a further meeting between the informant and the subject and a pertinent portion of this report is quoted as follows:

"INGALLS told me that she never signs any telegrams to German officials with her own name but signs it either 'Ellen' or 'Segetarius'. When she phones with any German official she also uses one of these two names.

"She is very anxious that I apply for a passport. She will leave either Saturday or Sunday, August 2nd or 3rd. There will not be any advance publicity because she is a little afraid of some sabotage on her plane. On her way back from Washington, she will make many stopovers to talk for America First Committees.

"She told me that I must realize that if I go along with her to Germany, many people will call me a Nazi, but if I am convinced that the Nazis are doing the right thing and have no reservations whatsoever about them, I wouldn't mind being called a Nazi.

"I have the feeling that she, too, is trying to raise money to finance her trip.

"When she sent the wire to BORCHERS, the German Consul from New York who was in San Francisco, she signed it 'Ellen'. She said the telegram contained nothing but farewell wishes.

"She said there was an expose about her past activities gotten out by some local organization and it was reprinted in the Congressional Record. She is quite worried about that."

On August 19, 1941 the writer arranged with [REDACTED] to interview Source A at Informant's office. Source A advised that she had originally met the subject in June of this year at a meeting of a branch of the America First Committee and said she knew little about her background other than what she had read in the newspapers and that imparted by the subject in conversation, part of which was that the subject's brother was related by marriage to the "House of Morgan"; that the subject was at one time a nurse and had won the Harmon Trophy for a flight to South America and also that she holds a non stop record for flight for women from the west to the east coast. According to Source A the subject had left a day or so before for Washington, D. C. and had letters opposing this country's entry into the war, which she planned to deliver personally to the President of the United States. During the course of her trip she expects to make speeches on behalf of the America First Committee and hopes to get some organization to back her proposed trip to Germany. She stated

that she expects to contact HANS THOMSEN of the German Embassy in Washington and if she does get in touch with him she will use the name "Ellen". Source A stated that in her opinion there was no question about the subject's admiration for Germany and her belief that Germany will eventually win this war; that chaos will probably follow in the United States and that those persons of pro-German tendencies will then be in the ascendency.

Subject apparently, according to Source A, believes that when this comes to pass, even though she and the informant may be in Germany, they will have no difficulty in re-entering the United States and assisting in re-organizing this country along German lines. Source A was of the opinion that there was nothing wrong with the subject mentally but that she was completely convinced that Germany was justified in the present war and would eventually be victorious and that she felt she might be able to convince the American people of this if she can get to Germany. Source A stated that the subject apparently trusts her completely and has said that Source A is the only one who knows her complete viewpoint.

Source A further stated that subject informed her that they (Source A and subject) should have no difficulty in getting to South America and once they reached there, German officials will arrange their transportation to Germany through Italian airlines which run from Rio de Janeiro which are used for Italian officials only. Source A stated that she would continue to supply reports recording her contacts with this subject to this office through [REDACTED] 7D

The latter exhibited to the writer a report appearing in "The News Letter" published by the News Research Incorporated, 727 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles, California dated June 18, 1941 containing additional background information regarding the subject. This article reads as follows:

"WE — LINDBERGH and INGALLS

"On June 10th, LAURA INGALLS, famous aviatrix, addressed a meeting of the Los Angeles division of the 'National Executive Committee of the Mothers of America to Keep the United States Out of War', whose national chairman is CATHERINE CURTIS. The audience was liberally sprinkled with people whose names are familiar in the files of government agencies concerned with the investigation of subversive activities. Miss INGALLS aroused her listeners when she revealed a plan to fly over Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Detroit and Washington, D.C., with other flights to be arranged as the plan nears completion. She intends to take to Washington a large batch of petitions for presentation to President ROOSEVELT. In explaining this, she said:

"The plan is that I shall fly the petitions you are now filling, to Washington, where CATHERINE CURTIS will present them to the President; and if she does not, I will take them in the back way myself. I have always been able to reach anyone I really wanted to. I suggested this to a Mothers' Rally in San Francisco, and Mrs. HENRY MORRIS' group is going to cooperate, too. I will also call upon Mrs. ROSA FARMER to join us in this. We will be able to get publicity because airplanes are news." (Mrs. MORRIS, daughter of Mayor ROSSI, is head of the Curtis group in San Francisco. Mrs. FARMER is head of the Detroit group and closely affiliated with COUGHLIN.)

"On June 12th, Miss INGALLS spoke before the Women's Activities Group of the America First Committee, at Los Angeles headquarters. She endorsed a United Europe under HITLER, although she was careful in the phrasing of her recommendation. Calling for 'vulgar, fanatical action on the part of mothers whose job it is to inject themselves in the controversy', she argued: 'For us women, the issues are clear-cut. We are not interested in what happens in Europe. All we are interested in is seeing our boys live, instead of fighting and dying.'

"Of course, the flyer carefully avoided to point out that the developments in Europe concern us greatly. Her policy evidently is not to let the right hand know what the left is doing, for she added:

"We need an American symbol of unity. We ought to adopt an American salute — the outstretched left arm. This is the old Indian salute, and therefore, purely American, and no one can accuse us of being Nazis, for the Nazis use the right arm."

"After the meeting, the aviatrix spoke to a group of women, reminding them that the swastika is an old Indian sign, therefore American. She showed them a bracelet she was wearing, containing many swastikas as part of the design.

"Miss INGALLS is not a newcomer among those who would sell out to HITLER at any price. Four weeks after this war got under way, she clamored for a new Munich. This time England was to be sold down the river. America was spared for later.

"On September 27, 1939, LAURA INGALLS — always publicity-hungry and inclined to do the dramatic — created a national stir when she dropped appeasement pamphlets from an airplane over the White House zone. The Civil Aeronautics Authority suspended her license for two violations. Investigation revealed (illustration on page 6) that Miss INGALLS was flying in the interests of a committee headed by none other than CATHERINE CURTIS. The next day both women appeared and demanded to be admitted to a meeting of the Foreign Relations Committee. When refused entry, Miss INGALLS burst into a denunciation of the government, exclaiming:

"And this is the government of the United States! I can't understand it! Imagine! Holding hearings behind closed doors! This is a dictatorship already!"

A further report dated August 27, 1941 was received from Source A and reflects that she had been advised that a letter and telegram received by Mrs. REYNARD from the subject indicated that she had arrived in Washington, had endeavored to see the President but had not been successful. This trip was taken by plane and the subject claimed that her plane had been sabotaged and so badly damaged that she had to land in New Mexico en route. Source A also received an air mail letter from the subject, mailed from Washington August 25, written on the stationery of the America First Committee and reading as follows:

"Don't think I have forgotten you - or the PLAN!

"I had to finish with the message before I did anything else and there were pretty bad complications before I left - which made things harder.

"Now I am free and I do want to know if you have been doing anything - planning anything - and still working to put through something along the line we talked of.

"I am going to talk for an America First meeting here in Washington this coming Wednesday and after that will go to New York. Mail address there is : 42 Park Avenue, New York City - so drop me a line as to what is going on. I have put a number of irons in the fire but it takes time for them to heat up! Several of them are in New York and until I get there and see what reactions are - can't tell you anything.

"There is a great deal I would like to write - but definitely consider it inadvisable. The address I have given you is absolutely safe and you can send me any word there.

"The weather here is really awful! The atmosphere is so heavy with moisture nothing wet will dry - that awful August mugginess - and of course hot into the bargain. California is certainly the CLIMATE but it is perhaps too restful - as you have heard me say - I don't want my spirit to fall asleep in my flesh!

"With warm remembrances to you [REDACTED] 70

"Sincerely yours,

(Signed) LAURA INGALLS"

P E N D I N G

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION:

At Washington, D. C. will endeavor to ascertain through Confidential Informants whether the subject, using the name of "Ellen" contacted HANS THOMSEN of the German Embassy.

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION:

At New York City will determine the identity of the individuals residing at 42 Park Avenue, which address the subject advised Source A, "would be safe to write her".

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

At Los Angeles, California will maintain contact with Source A through [REDACTED] 7D

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

SOURCE A -



7D



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
**Washington, D. C.**

October 10, 1941

JKM: BK

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: LAURA INGALLS  
 Internal Security - G

SA E. J. Gebben called from the Washington Field Office to advise that subject had arrived back in Washington and to inquire as to the Bureau's desires concerning surveillance of her.

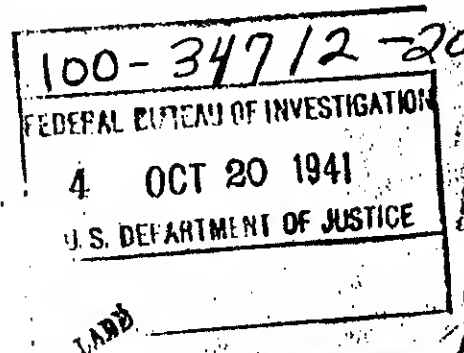
He was informed that the surveillance in New York had been discontinued several days ago because of lack of results and the fact she appeared to be limiting her activities to her apartment and to calling at the America First Committee offices only. However, since it appears she is in Washington for the purpose of having a meeting with representatives of the German Embassy, he was informed that appropriate surveillance should be made of her.

He was advised that a twenty-four hour surveillance was not necessarily called for and it was merely desired that her contacts and activities be determined, and that it would therefore be sufficient to pick her up in the mornings and make spot checks of her during the day to know her whereabouts, etc.

He was advised to keep the Bureau informed of developments so that the advisability of continuing the surveillance could be given further consideration if she stayed more than a few days.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford



Mr. Riegs	_____
Mr. Foxworth	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Drayton	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Miss Goshin	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

RECORDED

100-347712-77

December 15, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, SPECIAL DEFENSE UNIT  
MR. LAWRENCE M. C. SMITH

Re: LAURA HUGHETTING INGALLS

Information has been received from the Los Angeles Field Office of this Bureau that the captioned subject is a United States citizen and is among the most active and dangerous pro-Nazi in the Los Angeles district. It was stated that she is a well known aviatrix and had lived in Washington, D. C. with one Julia Kram.

The subject contacted Baron Von Geinanth at the German Embassy and expressed a desire to aid the German cause. It was stated that she is very pro-German and has expressed a strong dislike for anything democratic. She travels across the country speaking at America First rallies and Copperhead rallies, and is in constant contact with well known Nazi sympathizers.

The Los Angeles Field Office reports that subject is presently believed to be acting under direct instructions of the German Embassy in Chicago and the Middle West. Direct communications between this subject and Baron Von Geinanth are known to exist.

In view of this information it is respectfully requested that you advise whether this subject should be taken into custodial detention at this time.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

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20 1973 3 4

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Handwritten:* "Mentioning says not at this time, no reply necessary in L.A."

*Handwritten:* "July 12/1/42 3128"

*Handwritten:* "VAN 1942 11/2 61 2nd"

*Handwritten:* "at this time"

*Handwritten:* "No reply necessary 12/11/41 18 Jcd"

*Handwritten:* "JCS"

BY MESSENGER



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

December 16, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: LAURA INGALLS

Mr. E. A. Tamm ☒  
Mr. Clegg ☐  
Mr. Glavin ☐  
Mr. Ladd ☒  
Mr. Nichols ☐  
Mr. Tracy ☐  
Mr. Carson ☐  
Mr. Coffey ☐  
Mr. Hendon ☐  
Mr. Quinn Tamm ☐  
Mr. Holloman ☐  
Mr. Harbo ☐  
Miss Gandy ☐

*Definitely have them tried  
before in writing - How can  
I get my instructions in  
this regard corrected out*

In accordance with your request, all reports in the above captioned case were submitted to the Criminal Division on December 15, 1941. From a perusal of these reports, it is the opinion of the Criminal Division that definite proof has not been developed linking Laura Ingalls and Baron Ulrich von Gienanth of the German Embassy through their intermediary, Julia Kraus, an employee of the Alley Dwelling Authority. The main difficulty is that most of the information in the possession of the Bureau has been obtained from highly confidential sources which are not competent evidence in the event of a trial. Much of the information from the sources indicates the use of code words in conversations and it is generally understood that von Gienanth is referred to as "Mother" or some other maternal term.

Pursuant to Mr. Kramer's instructions, the decision of the Department, which has not been as yet confirmed by written memorandum, was discussed with SAC S. K. McKee and Agent ~~Laughlin~~ who is handling this case in the Washington Field Office. Information developed today indicates that Laura Ingalls has made numerous efforts to contact von Gienanth by telephone and has threatened to come to his home. On one occasion he hung up the telephone during the conversation and has very definitely indicated that he wants nothing further to do with her. She apparently has been intent upon seeing him, but late today information from a highly confidential source indicates that she may leave Washington tomorrow.

It is understood also that the Department in their memorandum is suggesting that both Ingalls and Kraus be interviewed and in view of the anticipated departure of Ingalls tomorrow and the fact that no further contacts are likely to be made between Ingalls and von Gienanth, it was thought that immediate action was desirable. Following a discussion of the matter with Mr. Kramer, the following instructions were

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INDEXED  
KB

2 DEC 30 1941

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*R-70*

- 13

100-34712-64  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
5 DEC 27 1941  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
*FIVE*

*The Dept has no authority to issue warrants  
here again we are trafficking in oral news of the  
Dept & respect the fact that they will never  
be and we have the wrong question unless we*

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

- 2 -

Issued to SAC McKee of the Washington Field Office. A telegram will be directed to Ingalls at the home of Julia Kraus on the morning of December 17, 1941, following the departure of Julia Kraus for her place of employment at the Alley Dwelling Authority. This telegram in effect will advise Ingalls that "Mother will see you at her home at 10:00 A.M. Don't telephone". If Ingalls then goes to von Gienanth's home, this call will serve to tie in the term "Mother" for von Gienanth. The Washington Field Office will accost Ingalls at the time she calls at von Gienanth's home and escort her to the Washington Field Office for questioning. In the meanwhile, Kraus will be escorted to the Washington Field Office for questioning with a view of obtaining a full admission in the matter.

The Washington Field Office was instructed that there should be no publicity in this matter pending Bureau advice, and should keep the Bureau advised fully as to the admissions obtained from both Kraus and Ingalls so that the matter could be referred to the Department for the immediate issuance of a warrant upon the securing of sufficient admissions. You will be kept advised as to the developments in this case.

Respectfully,

DAE  
D. A. Flinn

*[Handwritten signature]*



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

December 17, 1941

DAF:ogb  
5:35 P. M.  
6:00 P. M.  
Dictated 6:15 P. M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Laura Houghtaling Ingalls,  
with aliases;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
REGISTRATION ACT

Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

As you are aware, the Bureau for the past three months has been conducting an extensive investigation of the activities of Laura Ingalls, the well-known American aviatrix, who has been making numerous appearances before chapters of the America First Committee.

Information received from highly confidential sources has shown that she has been in extremely close contact with Baron Ulrich von Gienanth, second secretary of the German Embassy, Washington, D. C., through Julia Kraus, an employee of the Alley Dwelling Authority, a section of the District of Columbia government, as intermediary. Through the obtaining of telegrams, it has been shown that Kraus, on at least two occasions, has wired money to Ingalls, at various points in the United States; the money presumably originated with von Gienanth.

Ingalls has kept Kraus advised of her daily activities with the America First activities along isolationist lines, by air mail, special delivery letters. Kraus, in turn, has kept von Gienanth advised of her activities through telephonic or personal contact with von Gienanth, or Fritz Wagner, a messenger of the German Embassy, Washington, D. C., or Bernhardine Wagner, the wife of Fritz Wagner.

As you know, the America First Committee has ceased its activities following the declaration of war, and Ingalls then came to Washington, D. C.

Since it was apparent that little opportunity would occur in the future to obtain further items of evidentiary value, on which Ingalls and Kraus could be prosecuted on provisions of the Registration Act, reports in this case were submitted to the Department for a decision on December 15, 1941. The Department has indicated that, on the basis of these reports, competent evidence was not available to permit a prosecution, and suggested that Kraus and Ingalls be interviewed openly. Accordingly, these instructions were transmitted to the Washington Field Office, and during the afternoon of December 17, 1941, both Kraus and Ingalls were brought to that Office for

See 12/15/41 Press report  
Get info. re Watan,  
Reule & 2.9  
LH  
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100-34712-50

questioning.

I have now been advised by the Washington Field Office that Kraus is making a clean breast of the entire affair, stating that Ingalls and von Gienanth had reached an agreement by which the former was to receive \$250 per month for her activities in sponsoring isolationist propaganda through the America First Committee, although Ingalls at the outset had demanded \$300 per month. Kraus has admitted that on two occasions she received \$50 and \$100 in cash from von Gienanth, which he directed her to wire to Laura Ingalls, which she did. Although the full statement is not yet available, it appears that at least some of the money paid by von Gienanth to Ingalls was personally delivered.

Ingalls has not yet been interviewed, but will be as soon as the interview with Kraus has been completed. As soon as the full statements are available, the matter will be submitted to the Department for authorization, and opinion as to actual prosecution of both Kraus and Ingalls. There does not seem to be much doubt with reference to the actual payment of money by von Gienanth, through Kraus, to Ingalls, presumably for her activities in the America First Committee.

In view of the importance of this case, you will be kept chronologically advised of its status, both as to the results of the questioning and the authorization for prosecution. This case obviously contains many factors of public interest at this time, and will be followed closely.

Respectfully,

  
D. M. Ladd



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

December 18, 1941

DAF:GAJ

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Tour Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Goshen \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: LAURA HAUGHTALING INGALLS, with aliases;  
INTERNAL SECURITY (G)  
REGISTRATION ACT

As a supplement to my two previous memoranda of last evening, I wish to advise that Laura Ingalls has executed a full and complete signed statement in which she admits receiving \$250 in cash from Baron Ulrich Von Gienanth in New York City during early October, 1941, which money was to be used by her in furthering efforts to keep the United States out of war. These efforts were along the lines of appearing before various chapters of the America First Committee. You had previously been advised of other cash payments to her through Julia Kraus, an employee of the Alley Dwelling Authority as intermediary.

As her defense she indicated that in her mind she was doing a service to the United States and was really assisting the FBI in combating subversive elements. This contention is ridiculous when the full facts are considered since it was clearly indicated that she would not have continued her appearances before the America First Committee had she not received money from Von Gienanth. The America First Committee was paying only her traveling expenses.

An additional factor in which you might be interested is the fact that I have been advised by the Washington Field Office that only last evening Fritz Wagner, messenger of the German Embassy, delivered to the mother of Julia Kraus, who then was being questioned, \$100 which was to be delivered to "her" presumably Ingalls.

Kraus has cooperated in submitting the above information and she also permitted the search of her apartment which resulted in obtaining a diary belonging to Ingalls setting forth her travel and some of her contacts over the last year's period.

Ingalls is to be taken before the United States Commissioner for the District of Columbia at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon for arraignment.

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5 DEC 26 1941

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

100-3472-6  
FIVE BOX

The Director

- 2 -

The Department is interested in interviewing both Fritz Wagner and his wife, Bernhardine Wagner, who as you know are employees of the German Embassy. Efforts will be made to obtain clearance through the State Department for these interviews previous to any publicity. However, in view of the circumstances, these arrangements may not be effected prior to a reporting of the arrest of Ingalls in the press. You will be kept advised currently of the developments in this case.

Respectfully

  
D. M. Ladd



cc-Ladd  
Tamm  
Gandy

December 18, 1941

JKM:IS  
100-34712

100-34712-46

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

RECORDED

Major General Edwin M. Watson  
Secretary to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Watson:

I thought the President and you would be interested in the enclosed memorandum, which summarizes the information developed by this Bureau concerning the relationship between Laura Houghtaling Ingalls and representatives of the German government. As you know, a complaint was filed before the United States Commissioner on December 18, 1941, charging Laura Ingalls with violating the Act of June 8, 1938, as amended, requiring the registration of agents of foreign principals with the Department of State, and she is now in custody in lieu of bond.

You will recall that Miss Ingalls has been very active, particularly throughout the Middle West, in making personal appearances and lecturing for the America First Committee. It appears from the facts which have transpired that the Committee was paying only for her traveling expenses, and her financial status was such that had she not received assistance in this regard from the German Embassy, she would have been unable to continue her lecture schedule.

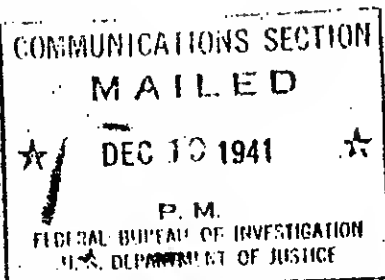
With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

33355

Enclosure



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Hottel \_\_\_\_\_  
Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
J. Edgar Hoover  
J. C. [unclear]  
J. [unclear]  
J. [unclear]

December 18, 1941

MEMORANDUM

## LAURA HOUGHTALING INGALLS

Laura Houghtaling Ingalle is American born, approximately thirty-eight years of age, and reported to have at one time been a vaudeville dancer. Between 1928, when she made her first solo flight at Roosevelt Field, Mineola, Long Island, New York, and 1936, when she won second prize of \$2,500.00 in the Bendix air race from California to New York, she established a number of women's flying records and was widely known in aviation circles.

In 1938 Miss Ingalle received her instrument rating from the Civil Aeronautics Authority, as a result of qualifying in blind flying and radio technician work. Press notices on September 27, 1939, reported that the C. A. A. had ordered Miss Ingalls to show cause why her license should not be revoked because of her having flown through restricted areas when she dropped pamphlets from her airplane in the neighborhood of the White House and Capitol. At that time she was reportedly associated with the Womens National Committee to Keep the United States Out of War, 535 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Laura Ingalls' first known contact with an official representative of the German government was in April, 1941, when, through a highly confidential source, it was determined that she had made an appointment for an interview with Hans Thomsen, Minister Plenipotentiary and Charge d'Affairs ad interim.

No further reports were received regarding Miss Ingalls' activities until July, 1941, when a confidential informant in Los Angeles, California, reported through conversations with her, that Miss Ingalle had indicated she was interested in obtaining support to make a flight to London, England, on what she termed "a peace mission." From London she intended to proceed to Berlin, Germany, and there also make peace overtures. She indicated also during these conversations that she was acquainted and possibly quite friendly with Dr. Hans Borchers, German Consul, New York City, and Captain Fritz Wiedemann, German Consul, San Francisco, California. She evidenced a high regard for Germany, its

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Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Government and culture, and felt that the above flight would serve to tell the German people that the truth was being concealed from the American public.

On the basis of this accumulation of facts an intensive investigation was initiated by the FBI with reference to the activities of Laura Ingalls.

In August, 1941, Ingalls came to Washington, D. C., with an appeal to the President of the United States from a "mothers' group" on the West Coast to keep the United States out of war. It was at this time that she first met Julia Kraus, an employee of the Alley Dwelling Authority, a subdivision of the District of Columbia. Ingalls, according to her own statement, requested that Kraus contact personnel of the German Embassy known to her and arrange for a meeting. These arrangements were effected and on the evening of September 17, 1941, Laura Ingalls with Julia Kraus proceeded to the home of Baron Ulrich von Gienanth, Second Secretary of the German Embassy, where a three hour conference was held. She again contacted von Gienanth on September 20, 1941, by prearrangement, on the streets of Washington, and von Gienanth delivered a package to the apartment of Julia Kraus, which according to the signed statement of Laura Ingalls, contained several German propaganda pamphlets for her reading.

A further meeting of von Gienanth and Ingalls occurred on October 10, 1941. During these preliminary meetings, arrangements were apparently being effected by which von Gienanth would pay to Laura Ingalls the sum of \$250.00 per month for her to continue her activities in an effort to keep the United States out of war through the facilities of the America First Committee.

Laura Ingalls had formerly made occasional appearances before the America First Committee, but had been unsuccessful in arranging a salary contract with that organization. In view of the fact that she was in dire financial straits, she felt that she should receive in the vicinity of \$300.00 a month since she could earn that as a flying instructor. The \$250.00 payment apparently agreed upon, seems to be a compromise.

During October, Laura Ingalls, according to her own statement, met von Gienanth in New York City, at which time she received \$250.00

in cash from him so that she could continue her work as a featured speaker for the America First Committee. This payment, however, does not represent the full payments since two separate payments of money were made to Laura Ingalls by Julia Kraus. The first, a sum of \$50.00, which was given to Kraus by Fritz Wagner, a messenger of the German Embassy, for von Gienanth, and the second a sum of \$100.00, which was given to Kraus personally by von Gienanth. Both of these sums were sent by telegram to Ingalls while on tour with the America First Committee. The America First Committee apparently had agreed to pay only the traveling expenses of Laura Ingalls in her work for that organization, and according to her, it was absolutely necessary that she receive additional funds to enable her to keep up this work and this was the reason for her contact with the German Embassy. According to the statements executed by both Kraus and Ingalls, von Gienanth received authority from German officials abroad for the payment of this money.

Laura Ingalls traveled extensively throughout the Middle West and apparently was given preference as a speaker before both established and new chapters of the America First Committee. She corresponded almost daily by air mail, special delivery letter with Julia Kraus at Washington, D. C., and Kraus, in turn, transmitted these reports of her progress and activities to Fritz Wagner, messenger of the German Embassy, who in turn kept von Gienanth advised. These activities on the part of Laura Ingalls continued until the America First Committee ceased its activities following the bombing of Hawaii. She then returned to Washington, D. C., and made strenuous efforts to contact von Gienanth, all of which were unsuccessful and she was apparently incensed at being snubbed by him.

Information was then received from a highly confidential source that Miss Ingalls was planning to depart from the District of Columbia, and in view of the fact that most of the data set forth hereinbefore was known to the FBI, even though the source indicated above has been shown as admissions by her and Kraus, it was concluded they should be presently interviewed.

It is interesting to note that the communications between Ingalls and Kraus, and Kraus and officials of the German Embassy, which had come into this Bureau's possession, although clear in their meaning when read in the light of known facts developed through confidential sources, did not on their face contain identifying data

which would have permitted their use as evidence without additional corroborating facts. As an example, in all communications von Gienanth was referred to as "mother", Ingalls as "Ellen", and Kraus as "Guten Rutch" (Happy Landings).

Miss Ingalls and Miss Kraus were accordingly interviewed the evening of December 17, 1941, and each executed a detailed signed statement, the pertinent points of which have been referred to hereinbefore. On the basis of the admissions contained in these statements corroborating the already known facts, Laura Ingalls was detained under authority received from the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, and on December 18, 1941, a complaint was filed before the United States Commissioner in the District of Columbia, charging her with violation of the Act of June 8, 1938, in that she failed to register with the Secretary of State as an agent of a foreign principal. No prosecutive action has been undertaken with regard to the intermediary, Julia Kraus, as of this date, although the facts concerning her have been presented for consideration in that regard.

It is interesting to note that Julia Kraus was born on July 13, 1904, in Munich, Germany, and reportedly became a United States citizen in 1923 at Baltimore, Maryland, through the naturalization of her parents during her minority. A certificate of derivative citizenship was issued to her on January 25, 1940. She presently resides at 1800- 28th Place, Southeast, Washington, D. C., with her mother who claims partial dependence upon her for support. Considerable information has been received, indicating, in addition to the obvious close relationship she has had with members of the German Embassy, her pro-Nazi sympathies. It is known that she has been in correspondence with officers of interned German ships and has made numerous statements adverse to the United States Government, its President and its Congress.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
C. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Hottel \_\_\_\_\_  
Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

December 30, 1941

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Berle:

On December 18, 1941, Mr. Fletcher Warren was contacted telephonically by a representative of this Bureau with reference to the attitude of the State Department regarding a prospective interview of Fritz Wagner, messenger of the German Embassy, and his wife Bernhardine Wagner, in connection with the current investigation of Laura Ingalls about whom you have been advised. Mr. Warren stated at that time that this interview was entirely permissible if both of these individuals were approached off the Embassy property or outside the residence of any of the officials or employees of the Embassy. He pointed out, however, that discretion was necessary to avoid any charges of mistreatment of an employee of the German Embassy or his wife being levelled at the American authorities.

To insure that you are fully advised as to the outcome of the interview of Fritz Wagner and his wife in the event any charges are made by the official German representative in this country, there are set out hereinafter the details leading up to the interviews and the circumstances under which they were made.

Special Agents of this Bureau assigned to the Washington Field Office, initiated a surveillance of the residence of the Wagners and Baron Ulrich von Gismanth, 707 Bradley Boulevard, Chevy Chase, Maryland, at about 3:15 p.m. on December 18, 1941. At 5:45 p.m., an automobile was seen entering the yard of the premises and at 7:15 p.m. this automobile left the premises and was followed to the Howard Johnson Restaurant, Wisconsin and Western Avenues, Northwest, Washington, D. C., at which time Mr. and Mrs. Wagner, accompanied by a man and woman with a small child entered the restaurant.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

In this establishment a Special Agent unobtrusively introduced himself to Fritz Wagner and requested to speak with him.

4 JAN 7 1942 1 1941

P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

34933

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

Briefly. The conversation then was carried on outside of the restaurant where they were joined by Mrs. Wagner. Wagner was advised that an interview with him and his wife was desired if they would accompany the Special Agents to the Washington Field Office. In reply to this request Wagner stated that it was necessary for him to arrive at the German Embassy at 9:00 p.m., and otherwise he had no objection whatsoever to being interviewed.

In view of the fact that they had not finished their meal they were permitted to return to the restaurant where they completed their dinner. At approximately 8:15 p.m., the Wagners with Mr. and Mrs. George Herzog and their child, met the Special Agents in front of the restaurant at which time it was learned that Mrs. Wagner was to spend the night at the Herzog residence. Accordingly, arrangements were made to follow the Herzogs and Wagners to the residence of the former, where they left Wagner's luggage and Mr. and Mrs. Wagner, in company with the Special Agents then proceeded to the Washington Field Office, arriving there shortly before 9:00 p.m. In view of the fact that Wagner wished to be at the German Embassy at 9:00 p.m., he was advised that any misunderstanding resulting from his late arrival would be explained to the appropriate authorities.

During the entire proceedings incident to the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Wagner at the Washington Field Office, no objection was made by them to being interviewed, nor did they show any displeasure at the request being made. They exhibited more than normal courtesy and cooperation throughout.

Fritz Wagner and his wife were interviewed separately in each instance by two Special Agents of this Bureau, and at the outset were advised that it was not necessary for them to answer any questions unless they cared to do so. Mrs. Wagner, on the basis of facts already known, was soon determined to be untruthful, and little time was spent in interviewing her. The additional time that she remained in the office was taken up in general conversation with her other than controversial subjects. An offer was made to take her to the Herzog residence preceding the departure of Fritz Wagner, whose interview was not then complete. She indicated that she would rather wait and was permitted to call Mrs. Herzog on the telephone. She made no other request at any time and stated that she was not at all embarrassed with reference to the requested interview. She indicated further that the treatment of her husband and herself had been "wonderful."

At the outset of the interview with Fritz Wagner, he was advised that it was not necessary for him to answer any of the questions proffered, but that his aid was being solicited in clearing up the relationship existing between Laura Ingalls and Baron Ulrich von Gienanth. Wagner made no objections to this line of inquiry and stated he would be glad to cooperate. He indicated he did not speak the English language very well and consequently would appreciate direct questions which he stated he would answer to the best of his ability.

Wagner was questioned for a period of approximately one hour, between 9:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m., at which time he was requested to place the statement in writing to which he readily agreed. He then dictated a statement, the transcription of which was completed at about 11:15 p.m. Wagner then read this statement and signed it and about 11:25 p.m., Wagner, accompanied by his wife and Special Agents of this Bureau, departed from the Washington Field Office from where they were driven to the Herzig residence, 3341 18th Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., where Mrs. Wagner was to spend the night. Wagner then obtained his luggage and was driven to the German Embassy, arriving there at approximately 11:45 p.m.

During the time of the questioning of Wagner he was very pleasant and at no time made any complaint whatever. The only matter that arose in his mind during the entire questioning was whether or not the Swiss Legation had been advised that he was being questioned by the FBI which would excuse him for not having reported to the German Embassy at 9:00 p.m. as directed, in compliance with the request of the State Department.

It was believed desirable to furnish the above transactions in considerable detail in the event the officials of the German Government at any time in the future attempted to make an issue of the activities of this Bureau in interviewing Fritz Wagner and his wife.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
**Washington, D. C.**

DAF:DEM

December 19, 1941

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: LAURA HOUGHTALING INGALLS, with aliases  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
 REGISTRATION ACT

As you are aware a complaint was filed against the above subject before the United States Commissioner at approximately 4:00 p.m. on December 18, 1941, for a violation of the Registration Act. This case is being handled by the Attorneys Neal Andrews and A. B. Caldwell of the Criminal Division and in accordance with their request I have been advised that Agents McLaughlin and Powell of the Washington Field Office conferred with the Departmental attorneys this morning as to the aspects of the case. The Department has arranged for the hearing of the case before a Grand Jury on Tuesday morning, December 23, 1941. At that time a representative of the State Department will testify to the fact that Ingalls is not registered. The statement of Ingalls will be introduced and Julia Kraus, the intermediary in the entire affair will testify as a witness. No agents of the Bureau will appear before the Grand Jury.

It is the plan of the Department to draw up an indictment of two counts, the first charging Ingalls with a substantive violation of the Registration Act, and the second for entering into a conspiracy with Baron Ulrich von Gienanth of the German Embassy to violate the Act. The Department is anticipating an early trial and expressed a desire to have all logical leads covered as soon as possible.

Several points were brought up by the attorneys of which you should be advised. The first was the obtaining of propaganda pamphlets delivered indirectly by von Gienanth to Ingalls, which are now in her apartment. This matter was discussed by the Washington Field Office with Agent Emrich of the New York Office early this morning and it was anticipated that a permission to search the apartment would be obtained either from Ingalls herself or Abbott Ingalls, her brother, in the event he has custody of the apartment. Secondly, the question of obtaining witnesses to testify as to the tenor of Ingalls' speeches before the

2 JAN 30 1942

INDEXED - 12

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Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tour Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

R-40

America First Committee meetings was broached. It is highly improbable that copies of these speeches have been obtained by the America First Committee headquarters, and no effort is being made to determine Ingalls' full relationships with the America First Committee headquarters pending a specific request of the Department. This matter is being called to the Department's attention by memorandum. Third, the question of the possible intimidation of Julia Kraus, whom the Department expects to use as a witness arose. Kraus has been told by Agents of the Washington Field Office that in case of any attempted intimidation she is to advise the Washington Field Office immediately. There has been no indication that intimidation will occur. The Department is being advised by memorandum of the Bureau's views in this matter, and in the event they feel she needs actual protection they consider taking her into custody as a material witness under the proper process.

The Department has instructed the authorities in the District Jail where the subject is being held that no one is to interview her with the exception of her attorney. This prevents Ingalls' discussing this case with Kraus, whom she desires to contact.

The Washington Field Office has been instructed to give preferred and expeditious attention to this case and you will be advised of the pertinent developments.

Respectfully,

  
D. M. Ladd

DAF:JLM:GAJ  
100-34712

December 20, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
MR. NEEDELL BERGE

RE: LAURA HOUGHTALING INGALLS, with aliases  
REGISTRATION ACT

The details with reference to the conference between Mr. Neal Andrews and Mr. A. B. Caldwell of the Criminal Division and Agents of the Washington Field Office of this Bureau with reference to the prosecution and early trial of the above captioned subject held on the morning of December 19, 1941, have been conveyed to me in full. It is believed that several points arising during this conference need further clarification and it is the purpose of this memorandum to outline these matters and set forth the action that is being taken to meet investigation such as made in this regard.

With reference to the obtaining of the propaganda leaflets delivered to Julia Krane, the intermediary in this case, by Baron Ulrich von Gienanth of the German Embassy, for Ingalls, please be advised that steps are being taken by the New York Office of this Bureau to obtain these pamphlets by permission of the person having custody of the apartment in which they are located. This may be Abbott Ingalls, the brother of Laura Ingalls, or Laura Ingalls herself. It is believed that no difficulty will be encountered in obtaining the pamphlets, but in the event permission to search the apartment of the subject is denied, the appropriate steps will be taken to obtain the proper search warrant.

The question also arose as to the location of persons who could testify as to the tenor of speeches made by Ingalls in her various appearances before the America First Committee. It is unlikely that there is any transcript of any of these speeches available at any point, and outside of the reporting of them in the local press, few sources remain where it can be definitely ascertained where her statements were. There are available in several of the reports submitted, the names of the leaders of the various local units who either entertained or arranged for transportation of the subject to and from the meetings.

DEC 21 1941  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

These persons in many instances were officers of the local chapter of the America First Committee, and would have knowledge of the arrangements by which Ingalls was obtained as a feature speaker. They could also testify as to the statements made during the appearance. It is considered undesirable, however, to contact any of the officers of the America First Committee in view of the circumstances pending your authorization.

Your attention is also directed to the fact that headquarters of the America First Committee probably have a record of the expense accounts submitted by Ingalls, as well as the disbursements made to her. There would probably also be available at their headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, a schedule of appearances as well as correspondence by which these appearances were arranged.

This Bureau does not plan any contact with the headquarters of the America First Committee to clarify Ingalls' associations with that organization unless advised to the contrary by you. Along this same line efforts are currently being made to obtain a transcript of a radio interview had over a Denver, Colorado, broadcasting station which may assist in indicating the nature of her utterances.

Further during this conference, the matter of possible intimidation of Julia Kraus who was being considered as an important witness in this case was discussed. Please be advised that during the initial interview with Kraus she was advised by Agents of this Bureau that in the event any effort whatsoever was made by any source to intimidate her in any manner, she was to immediately contact the local Bureau office which has personnel available twenty-four hours per day. She advised that she would do this and followed through by submitting additional information the day subsequent to the interview. There has been no indication that any efforts were contemplated by the persons involved in this case to intimidate Kraus.

I would like to call to your attention that Baron Ulrich von Gienanth was married during the afternoon preceding the release to the press of the facts concerning this case. He returned to the German Embassy at approximately 5:00 p.m. on that day, about the time that the first papers appeared on the streets of Washington carrying the story regarding Ingalls. Subsequent to that time von Gienanth remained in the German Embassy and no information is available from any source indicating that he contacted anyone outside the Embassy with reference to

this case. As you know, the Embassy was closed and its employees transported to White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. It is a well established policy of this Bureau that in the absence of some threat of intimidation, no steps are taken to guard witnesses that may subsequently testify. An unusual burden has been placed upon this Bureau due to the declaration of war, and it is suggested that if you feel a threat is impending against Kraus, that consideration be given to taking her into custody under the proper process as a material witness.

Instructions have been issued that Kraus be recontacted to ascertain her attitude since the recent publicity in this case, as well as to secure any additional information of possible use in the prosecution. At that time she will again be advised that in the event of any circumstance arising that could be in any manner construed as intimidation, she should immediately contact the Washington Field Office of this Bureau.

This case is being followed closely and every effort is being made to complete the investigation at an early date. Immediately upon receipt of a report reflecting the investigation to date, copies will be designated for your attention. In that regard, I am enclosing at this time a copy of the report of Special Agent E. M. Washington, dated December 13, 1941, at Chicago, Illinois, entitled Laura Houghtaling Ingalls, with aliases; Internal Security - C. X

All additional suggestions regarding inquiries to be made in this matter should be directed to this Bureau in a memorandum at an early date to insure immediate attention.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosure

RECEIVED  
DEC 15 1941  
FBI - WASH  
10 32 AM '41

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

WE:MNA:ms

146-6-162

January 14, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

For your disposition there is attached copy of "Mein Kampf" (German edition, 1939). This book is the property of Laura Ingalls and was recovered from her possessions by Agent McLaughlin for use as a Government exhibit in the trial of the case United States v. Laura Ingalls.

Miss Ingalls is presently serving a two-year sentence in the Lorton Reformatory, but in order to avoid any possible embarrassment upon the completion of her sentence, it is suggested that the book be delivered back to her. It is expected that Miss Ingalls will ask for all the exhibits used at the trial, and inasmuch as I am leaving Washington, the only exhibit in my possession is being delivered to you for whatever disposition you see fit.

Respectfully,

*M. Neil Andrews*

M. Neil Andrews

RECORDED & INDEXED

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*To Mr. L. C. Washington  
1/25/43  
209*

FOR DEFENSE



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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO. 100-6101 82M

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

REPORT MADE AT Washington, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 1/3/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/22-31/41	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE <u>CHANGED</u> LAURA HOUGHTALING INGALLS, with aliases Ellen, Aunt Minnie, Aunt Ellen, Aunt Nellie, Patriot, Segatarius, "n"; JULIA KRAUS, with aliases G.R., Guten Rutch, Garce Rutch, Hackenkreuzchen.			CHARACTER OF CASE REGISTRATION ACT INTERNAL SECURITY - G.

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Indictment charging INGALLS as unregistered agent of a foreign principal as defined in Act of 6/8/38 as amended by Act of 8/7/39 and presented by Grand Jury on 12/23/41, herein set out. Bench warrant issued 12/23/41 and returned "cepi" on 12/24/41. Bond fixed at \$7500. 12/24/41 and recognizance for same amount taken on same date with WILLIAM J. CUNILL as surety.

[REDACTED] INGALLS' in-  
[REDACTED] statement in letter to [REDACTED] on 5/1/41  
all set out. Results of examination of property obtained in con-  
sistent search of KRAUS' apartment revealing INGALLS' and KRAUS' Nazi  
affiliations set out. Original telegram of instructions contain-  
ing confirmation of INGALLS' agreement with German Reich ob-  
tained and set out, together with incriminating evidence from  
examination of property found in search, under warrant, of  
INGALLS' New York apartment, including list of dates and places  
where INGALLS spoke and her contacts at these points; also some  
of names of other contacts found in INGALLS' notebooks and diary,  
with excerpts from correspondence between INGALLS and KRAUS, as  
intermediary for VON GIENANTH, portraying entire picture and  
revealing KRAUS and INGALLS as ardent admirers and supporters  
of the German cause. German books and propaganda pamphlets,  
believed to have been delivered to INGALLS by VON GIENANTH,  
listed herein.

- P -

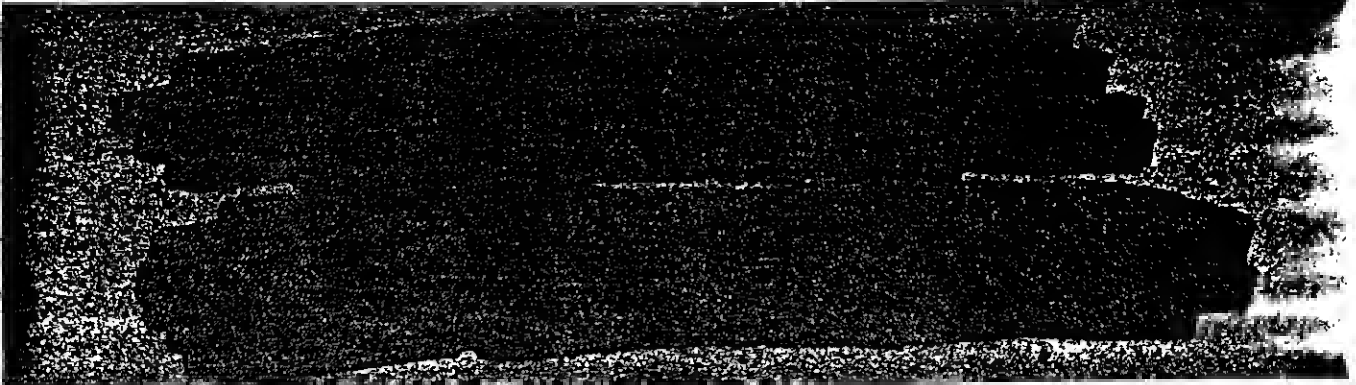
Reference:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED]  
Washington, D. C.

dated 12/22/41 at SE

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>S. R. McFarland</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES DESTROYED <i>1/10/42</i>		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">E</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">JAN 6 1942</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">MAX</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">Jm</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		
5 - Bureau 2 - Neil Andrews, DJ 4 - Washington Field		

7 FEB 1 1942



The following is a list of INGALLS' speaking engagements containing the dates on which, and places where INGALLS spoke, also the group before which she was speaking and so far as is available, the names of the persons whom she contacted in the various places where she spoke. This information is derived from correspondence, INGALLS' notes and investigation which was conducted:

June 12, 1941	America First Committee meeting at Los Angeles, Cal.
June 13, 1941	America First Committee, 1200 people, Arena, Oakland, Cal.
June 17, 1941	America First meeting at Los Angeles, Cal.
June 24, 1941	America First Committee, Long Beach, Cal.
June 30, 1941	Meeting of MOTHERS, Pasadena, Cal.
July 9, 1941	America First meeting, Glendale, Cal. Apparently introduced by PATRICK CALHOUN
July 14, 1941	America First meeting, Alhambra, Cal.
July 17, 1941	America First meeting, Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Cal.
July 22, 1941	America First meeting, Woman's Club, Hollywood, Cal. Spoke with one SYLVIA COMFORT
July 24, 1941	Radio talk with G. ALLISON PHELPS, Los Angeles, Cal.

100-6101

July 24, 1941 America First Womans Group, Los Angeles, Cal.

July 25, 1941 America First, Pasadena, Cal.  
With Mr. PATRICK CALHOUN

Aug. 27, 1941 America First meeting, Washington, D. C.

Sept. 27 and 28, 1941 Convention of "We the Mothers Mobilized for America, Inc.", Chicago, Ill.

Oct. 5, 1941 America First picnic, Elmhurst, Long Island, N.Y.  
Spoke with Ex-Senator RUSH HOLT.

Oct. 6, 1941 Women United, New York City

Oct. 9, 1941 America First Committee, Rutherford, New Jersey

Oct. 15, 1941 America First Committee, Jamaica, Long Island, N.Y.  
and also,  
America First Committee, Woodside, Long Island, N.Y.

Oct. 16, 1941 America First, Woodridge, New Jersey

Oct. 17, 1941 America First Bronx Rally, 5000 persons, Bronx, N.Y.  
Spoke with Ex-Senator RUSH HOLT

Oct. 20, 1941 America First Committee, street speaking,  
57th and Fifth Ave., New York City

Oct. 23, 1941 America First meeting, Rosedale, Long Island, N.Y.  
and on same date  
America First meeting, Jackson Heights, Long Island.

Oct. 24, 1941 America First meeting, 36th St. Chapter, Third Ave.,  
New York City.  
Introduced by Mrs. LEWIS.

Oct. 25, 1941 America First meeting, Academy of Music, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Spoke with JOHN CUDAHY and Senator BURTON K. WHEELER.

Oct. 27, 1941 America First meeting, Astoria, Long Island

100-6101

- Oct. 28, 1941 America First meeting, 59th St. Chapter,  
New York City
- Oct. 31, 1941 America First meeting, Bayridge Unit, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Nov. 3, 1941 America First meeting, Highbridge Unit, Bronx, N.Y.  
Spoke with Congressman HAMILTON FISH.
- Nov. 6, 1941 America First meeting, Queens, Long Island, N.Y.  
Spoke with Congressman WILLIAM B. BARRY.
- Nov. 10, 1941 America First meeting, Brooklyn, New York
- Nov. 11, 1941 Women United, New York City
- Nov. 12, 1941 Left New York City enroute to Appleton, Wis.
- Nov. 13, 1941 America First Committee, Appleton, Wisconsin.  
Mr. RAY WILLIAMS, Chairman.
- Nov. 14, 1941 America First meeting, movie theatre, Wittenberg, Wis.
- Nov. 15, 1941 America First meeting, Community House, Neillsville,  
Wisconsin.  
Mr. WILLIAM WILSMAN, Chairman.
- Nov. 16, 1941 America First meeting, high school, Bloomer, Wis.
- Nov. 16, 1941 America First meeting, Memorial Hall, Fall Creek, Wis.
- Nov. 18, 1941 America First, Racine, Wisconsin  
Mr. KETCHIN, Chairman.
- Nov. 19, 1941 America First meeting, Manitowoc, Wisconsin.  
Mrs. ARCHIE EAST, Chairman.
- Nov. 19, 1941 Radio talk, Station WOMT, Manitowoc, Wis.
- Nov. 20, 1941 Interview with MARGARET TYLER, Station WOMT, Manitowoc,  
Wisconsin
- Nov. 21, 1941 America First meeting, Kimball Hall, Chicago, Ill.  
Spoke with Congressman KARL MUNDT.

100-6101

Nov. 24, 1941 America First meeting, Kenosha, Wisconsin.  
Mrs. ~~REISCHAL~~, Chairman.

Nov. 25, 1941 America First meeting, Gary, Indiana.  
Mrs. E. T. ~~KELL~~, Chairman.

It will be noted that INGALLS has listed the following as good women in Gary:

Mrs. ~~BRANDT~~  
Mrs. C. B. ~~NEWER~~  
Mrs. W. G. ~~BOWMAN~~  
Mrs. W. ~~DINWOODIE~~.

Nov. 28, 1941 America First meeting, high school, Colorado Springs, Col.  
Spoke with Ex-Senator RUSH HOLT.  
Mrs. SPENCER ~~PENROSE~~ and Mrs. TOM ~~MC CARTHY~~,  
Chairmen.

Nov. 29, 1941 America First meeting, Lincoln Park Auditorium,  
Grand Junction, Col.  
Rev. M. ALLEN ~~KEITH~~, Chairman.  
Spoke with Ex-Senator RUSH HOLT.

Dec. 1, 1941 America First Committee radio broadcast, station  
KLZ, Denver, Col.  
Mr. CLAUDE B. ~~BOETCHER~~, noted.

Dec. 2, 1941 Luncheon with Denver Women.

Dec. 5, 1941 America First, final speech, Temple House,  
Lansing, Michigan.  
Mrs. J. M. ~~REASONER~~, Chairman.

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Los Angeles, California  
January 13, 1943

Director

FBI

Re: LAURA HOUGHTALLING INGELLS, was;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
CUSTODIAL DETENTION

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated September 14, 1942 entitled, "INTERNAL SECURITY, CUSTODIAL DETENTION LIST", in which it was noted that the Subject had been placed in dangerousness classification A-2. Subject's address was listed as Los Angeles, California.

Inasmuch as the Washington Field Division is the office of origin in this case entitled, "LAURA HOUGHTALLING INGELLS, was; REGISTRATION ACT, INTERNAL SECURITY - G", and since the Subject of instant case has no present Los Angeles address, the classification letter is being forwarded to the Washington Field Division with a copy of this letter.

Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD  
S. A. C.

DEN:DLK  
100-6533  
1 cc Washington Field - enc. 1

*Noted on 3x5 clero and  
2-2-43  
FHM*



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100-3-1113-153  
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
RECORDS SECTION  
FEB 23 1942

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
100-1344

of all the money  
clerk took things  
the purg.

L. B. Nichols

Respectfully,

Andrews pointed out that the defense of Laura Ingalls would be that she first volunteered her services and filed an application and then pursuant to Mr. Hoover's public statements she started engaging in counterespionage work. I told Andrews that this was certainly novel and he stated that of course it was fantastic. I suggested that he talk to Mr. Ladd and in response to an inquiry I told him that I felt the matter of stipulations would be out of our field and would be a matter for him to pass on. He stated that he would talk to Mr. Ladd and Mr. Ladd was advised.

to stipulate this.  
statements requesting citizens to help out. He wanted  
stipulate this. Secondly Mr. Hoover had made public  
tion for appointment in the Bureau; that he wanted to

Neil Andrews, a Special Assistant in the Department, called. He stated that Mr. Reilly, the counsel for Laura Ingalls, was in his office. He, Mr. Reilly, contends that Laura Ingalls filed an application for appointment in the Bureau; that he wanted to

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

LBN:DW

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
January 27, 1942



DIRECTOR  
J. Edgar Hoover

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Holloman
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Harbo
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy
- Miss Egan

RECORDED

DLT:rb

907A

149  
February 3, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WENDELL ROUGE  
ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: United States v. Laura Ingalls,  
Trial Date February 9, 1942 ✓

United States v. George Sylvester  
Viereck, Trial Date February 16,  
1942

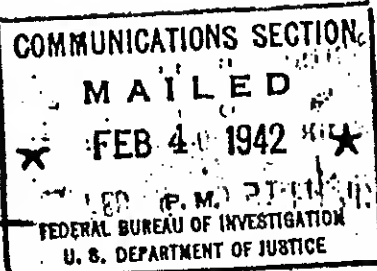
United States v. Ryder, Williams,  
Townsend, et al., Trial Date  
March, 1942

Reference is made to your memorandum of February 3, 1942, requesting an investigation of the jurors selected to try the above named cases.

Pursuant to your request, an investigation is being initiated. However, I desire to advise that in view of the shortness of the time allotted the Bureau to conduct the investigation, it may not be possible to complete an investigation to the extent which you desire. However, I want to assure you that the Bureau will do its best in this regard. A report will be furnished you as soon as it is received.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director



RECEIVED  
FEB 4 11 24 AM '42  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
Call 1 7:30 P.M.  
2/4/42  
No Answer R.H.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 3, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER,  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

re: United States v. Laura Ingalls,  
Trial Date February 9, 1942

United States v. George Sylvester  
Viereck, Trial Date February 16,  
1942

United States v. Ryder, Williams,  
Townsend, et al., Trial Date  
March, 1942

It is desired that a limited investigation be made of the members of the trial jury, both civil and criminal, who are to be drawn February 3, 1942, in the District Court for the District of Columbia.

It would be well to make inquiry concerning the reputation for loyalty and patriotism of each juror; his general reputation as a law abiding citizen; his membership in fraternal and patriotic organizations; the police record of the juror and the members of his immediate family; his attitude towards the lend lease program and the war effort; whether the juror has any close relatives who were born in any Axis country and his credit standing. No personal contact with the prospective juror should be made.

Your attention is called to the fact that the first of these cases will be tried on February 9th. It is important that this investigation be completed and that a report of the same be made prior to that date.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge,  
Assistant Attorney General.

100 - 1712-14  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
19 FEB 6 1942  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Holloman  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

8:40  
2/3/42  
Called McKee  
told to proceed  
confirmed instructions  
of letter to him this PM.  
making arrangements as  
referred him to Bureau  
Wendell Berge  
2-3-42

3112-149  
Special Agent in Charge  
Washington, D. C.

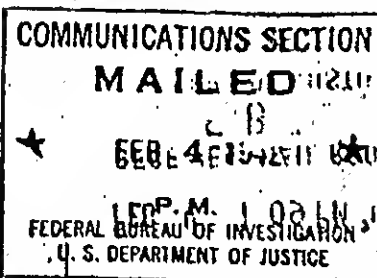
Re: LAURA INGALLS,  
GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK,  
RALPH W. TOWNSEND, et al;  
Registration Act

907C  
Dear Sir:

This will confirm a telephone call had between you and Supervisor Duane L. Trayner of this Bureau on instant date instructing that your office do the best it could to conduct an investigation of the members of the trial jury, both civil and criminal, who were drawn on February 3, 1942 in the District Court for the District of Columbia. This report must be in the Bureau not later than Saturday morning, February 7, for transmittal to the Department. As you were advised, the Department requested the following investigation:

"It would be well to make inquiry concerning the reputation for loyalty and patriotism of each juror; his general reputation as a law abiding citizen; his membership in fraternal and patriotic organizations; the police record of the juror and the members of his immediate family; his attitude towards the lend lease program and the war effort; whether the juror has any close relatives who were born in any Axis country and his credit standing. No personal contact with the prospective juror should be made."

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_



Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice**

**Washington, D. C.**

**February 3, 1942**

DAF:IS  
4:00 p.m.

**MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KRAMER**

**RE: LAURA HOUGHTALING INGALLS,  
with aliases  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
REGISTRATION ACT**

Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nebo \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Goshin \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent D. T. McLaughlin of the Washington Field Office contacted the writer telephonically at the above time on the instructions of SAC McKee. He referred to the report of Special Agent Edward A. Furbish, dated January 6, 1942, at Los Angeles, California, which contained considerable undesirable material with regard to the obtaining of certain documents in the residence of Laura Ingalls at Los Angeles. Entrance had been effected into the residence through the cooperation of Mrs. Ralph Revilo, whereupon certain documents were removed from the premises and placed in the files of the Los Angeles Office, and a request made by the Los Angeles Office for the office of origin to request a search warrant in the event they were required in the prosecution.

Letters of censure were previously directed to the Washington Field Office and the Los Angeles Field Office for taking action on this report, but the Washington Field Office has been unsuccessful in determining exactly what transpired, although having forwarded two or three previous teletypes to the Los Angeles Office. The Departmental attorneys wished to be advised of the transaction, so that a decision could be made as to whether the documents could be used as evidence.

The writer subsequently advised SAC McKee to call Los Angeles and get the entire matter straightened out so that the facts would be available. At 9:30 p.m., SAC McKee contacted the writer and advised that Mrs. Revilo had temporary custody of Ingalls' property and had a key to the premises. She was to forward personal mail and retain business mail, and actually referred the Agents of the Los Angeles Office to the letters obtained and set forth in the above reference report, but did not remain in the house during the full period that

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

15 FEB 13 1942

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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7 FEB 16 1942

Memorandum for Mr. Kramer

these were being examined, nor give permission to remove the letters from the residence. The letters were later returned to the Ingalls' residence and subsequently a search warrant was used to obtain the same letters, by the same Agent who had returned them to the premises.

In view of the above facts it is doubtful that the letters obtained in Los Angeles can be used legally as evidence. However, the attorneys for the subject may make stipulations to permit their introduction. The letters obtained are merely corroborative of the other evidence secured and failure to introduce them will in no way jeopardize the prosecution.

Respectfully,



D. A. Flinn



DAF: IS

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
February 13, 1942

Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KRAVITZ *PK*

RE: LAURA HOUGHTALING INGALLS, with aliases  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
REGISTRATION ACT

There is attached hereto a memorandum which was submitted to the writer by Special Agent D. T. McLaughlin, of the Washington Field Office, at the time consideration was being given by Judge Morris to accepting a plea of nolo contendere from the subject.

This summary was reviewed by the writer for any objectionable material at that time and SAC McKee was contacted telephonically and advised that the attached memorandum was approved for submission to the Judge, confidentially. As you will recall the plea of nolo contendere was denied.

Respectfully,

*D. A. Flinn*  
D. A. Flinn

Enclosure

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100-24712-166  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
8 24 2  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

11 MAR 5 1942

*nk*  
ENCLOSURE

DTM:AM/MG  
100-6101

MEMORANDUM

During the spring of 1941 LAURA INGALLS is known to have expressed the sentiment that democracy is the bunk and cannot last; that HITLER would encompass the United States and that the people of the United States must make ready for the acceptance of HITLER'S policy and that we must prepare for his arrival; that she herself was working to prepare the people to receive HITLER and that she hoped to get to Berlin to get instructions as to how to proceed. INGALLS is known to have stated that the best way to keep the United States out of war was to pray for or aid a swift German victory. She is known to have expressed a belief that Germany would be victorious and that those in the United States and elsewhere who had assisted in the cause would be well rewarded when Germany came into power in the United States. During the summer months of 1941 INGALLS is known to have sought assistance from HANS BORCHERS and FRITZ WEIDEMAN, German Diplomatic officials, and expressed a desire for further assistance from other German diplomatic officials in carrying out a plan whereby she would go to Germany to learn their system.

During the month of June, INGALLS spoke on five different occasions for the America First Committee in and around Los Angeles, California. During the month of July, INGALLS spoke

100-34712-11

on six occasions for the America First Committee in the same territory. Through these speeches, she established herself with a group of women in Los Angeles known as Mothers of Los Angeles, under whose sponsorship she flew to Washington early in the month of August as a courier of that organization with a letter addressed to the President, urging him to keep the United States out of war. INGALLS was successful in having this letter read into the Congressional Record. Late in August, INGALLS spoke to an America First group in Washington, D. C. At this time, she became acquainted with JULIA KRAUS, known to be of pronounced Nazi leanings. JULIA KRAUS was acquainted with FRITZ WAGNER, messenger at the German Embassy, and BERNHARDINE, his wife, who were residents in the home of Baron ULRICH VON GIENANTH. Through KRAUS, INGALLS met VON GIENANTH in the middle of the month of September, 1941, and there followed a brief period during which INGALLS offered her services to VON GIENANTH and the German Government. Following a period of indecision about the proposed arrangement, VON GIENANTH reached an agreement with INGALLS. On the basis of her ability to earn \$300 per month as a flying instructor, a salary of \$300 a month for her efforts to keep the United States out of war was agreed upon tentatively, to be confirmed from abroad.

It was agreed that JULIA KRAUS would act as intermediary and aliases would be used for all parties concerned in correspondence and otherwise.

On the 27th and 28th of September, 1941, INGALLS addressed a mothers' group in Chicago, Illinois. During the month of October, INGALLS delivered thirteen speeches in New York and surrounding vicinity for the America First Committee, and one to "Women United." On October 10, INGALLS lead a group of "Women United" from New York City on a pilgrimage to Washington to plead with Congressmen against the revision of the Neutrality Act, and took part with them in a demonstration for the same, conducted in the Senate Office Building. On October 22, 1941, INGALLS accompanied the Brooklyn America First chapter in a pilgrimage to Washington as a demonstration against the

revision of the Neutrality Act. During the month of October, INGALLS received \$250 cash, which was delivered to her personally by VON GIENANTH in New York City; also, she received the balance of \$50 from VON GIENANTH in a telegraphic money order sent by intermediary KRAUS. Almost daily contact was maintained between INGALLS and VON GIENANTH through intermediary KRAUS. Also, personal meetings of INGALLS and VON GIENANTH, all conducted under a subterfuge, took place periodically.

On November 1, INGALLS came to Washington to be present at a meeting of Chairmen of America First chapters throughout the Country, which took place at the Lee Sheraton Hotel. She again contacted VON GIENANTH personally at this time. After returning to New York City, she delivered five speeches in and around New York City between the third and twelfth of November. On November 12, she proceeded to Chicago and the Middle West. During the period which intervened between November 13th and November 30th, she delivered eleven speeches throughout the Middle West, and as far west as Colorado. She received \$50 from VON GIENANTH, sent to Chicago in telegraphic money order by intermediary KRAUS on November 24. She received \$100 from VON GIENANTH, sent her in telegraphic money order at Colorado Springs, Colorado by intermediary KRAUS on November 28.

INGALLS maintained regular contact with VON GIENANTH through KRAUS at all times, and, on November 18, 1941 at Racine, Wisconsin, she received a wire of the confirmation of her agreement with the German Government from intermediary KRAUS, and instructions to continue her work through December.

On December 1, she engaged in a radio broadcast on Station KLZ, Denver. On December 5, she delivered her final speech as a substitute for "Alfafa BILL" MURRAY at Lansing, Michigan. After the outbreak of the war, she returned to Washington, D. C. to get new assignments and instructions for carrying on her work under the existing war conditions, and was advised by GIENANTH that her services would no longer be needed.

On December 17, 1941, suspecting that the F.B.I. might be conducting an investigation of her activities, INGALLS advised KRAUS that, in the event she was questioned by the F. B. I., she would tell them that she was conducting her own investigation, and that KRAUS was to say that money which had been forwarded to INGALLS by KRAUS was money which KRAUS was loaning to INGALLS. She added that she would tell the F. B. I., if questioned, that all fliers were queer people, and that one does not know what is in their minds. At this time, she advised KRAUS that this would be their story and that they would stick to it. Later in the day on December 17, 1941, INGALLS came to the Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on invitation, and admitted to all of the above facts, including the business arrangement with VON GIENANTH, receipt of afore-mentioned monies, and all facts surrounding her activities, except those facts set out which revealed her true motive. These admissions are contained in the signed statement made voluntarily by INGALLS on December 18, 1941.

JULIA KRAUS, on December 17, 1941, upon invitation, came to the Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and admitted to all the above set-out facts concerning her activities as intermediary, which facts are contained in signed statement and supplementary statement made voluntarily by her on this date. KRAUS later revealed INGALLS' preconceived defense of a private investigation in the event of arrest, which information is contained in a signed statement voluntarily made by KRAUS on December 21.

On the evening of December 17, while INGALLS and KRAUS were being interviewed in the Washington Field Office, VON GIENANTH delivered \$100 in cash to MRS. JULIA KRAUS, mother of KRAUS, at the Kraus apartment for INGALLS, who was residing there at the time, via his courier, FRITZ WAGNER.

Contacts and all correspondence between parties to this operation were carried on and transmitted under a subterfuge with the use of aliases.

Examination of evidence contained in consent search of the KRAUS apartment in Washington, D. C. and the search under warrant conducted in INGALLS' apartment in New York uncovered copies of correspondence between INGALLS and KRAUS, acting as intermediary for VON GIENANTH. A personal diary and notebooks of INGALLS, in her handwriting, corroborated much of the above information regarding her activities; also, a considerable amount of America First and other Isolationist literature, and a quantity of literature concerning Germany, published both in Berlin and by the German Library of Information in New York City.

All of the afore-mentioned German propaganda is believed to be that literature described by INGALLS to have been delivered to her by VON GIENANTH personally at the KRAUS apartment September 21, 1941. Also found in the search were leather-bound edition of Mein Kampf, another copy of the same book in English, and a copy of My New Order, containing speeches by HITLER, in which speeches INGALLS has blocked out many statements for use by herself.

INGALLS, in all her speeches throughout the country, was vicious in her attacks against the Administration and was very forceful and dramatic in expressing her purpose to keep the United States out of the European war, and to encourage all of her listeners to write their Congressmen and Senators, and to do all in their power to hold up legislation having to do with the repeal of the Neutrality Act, and the entry of the United States into the conflict.

INGALLS is not registered, nor has she ever been registered, or indicated any intention of registering as an Agent of a foreign Government or foreign principals with the State Department, as required by the Registration Act.

During the period of this investigation, INGALLS neither approached for the purpose of furnishing information, nor furnished any information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

For purpose of clarification, it is pointed out that BARON ULRICH VON GIENANTH is Second Secretary to the German Embassy, Washington, D. C.

100-6882  
PTMOL:PAC

Washington, D. C.  
March 11, 1942

From  
America First Committee  
file  
AFC  
\*\*\*

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

~~Re: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE~~

Dear Sir:

As has been reported LAURA H. <sup>O</sup>INGALLS was convicted on February 13 as a foreign agent who failed to register under the requirements of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

INGALLS, during the course of her activities for the German government, was very active for the America First Committee and spoke numerous times in New York State and throughout the Middle West and as far West as California. During the course of her speaking engagements for the America First Committee, she became well acquainted with their officials and obtained from them and from their research bureau a large quantity of America First literature and speakers' bulletins. This information, together with the names of numerous committee chairmen throughout the country and also a list of the speaking dates and the names of the speakers and where they spoke during the time the America First Committee was active, and also a considerable quantity of literature from other sources, which was distributed by the America First Committee, was found among her possessions obtained by search warrants during the course of the preparation of the INGALLS case for trial.

This information and evidence concerning the America First Committee are being maintained in the files of the Washington Field Office as exhibits in the INGALLS case, and it is not being reported except in so far as individuals, since they are believed to be proper subjects for investigation.

In the event of an investigation of the America First Committee activities, the above information would be of considerable value, and for that reason the Bureau is being advised of the existence of this evidence at this time.

Yours very truly,

RECORDED

INDEXED

S. E. MOFFE

Special Agent in Charge

100-31712-3026  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAR 14 1942  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

March 26, 1942

RECORDED 100-34712-175  
DAF:SB

Special Agent in Charge  
Washington, D. C.

Re: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
INTERNAL SECURITY-C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your communication dated March 11, 1942, on the above captioned matter advising that considerable material was secured in the investigation of Laura Houghtaling Ingalls, with aliases, Internal Security-C, Registration Act, with reference to the America First Committee.

In this regard, please refer to Bureau letter to all Special Agents in Charge, dated March 16, 1942, regarding an investigation into activities of those groups endeavoring to revive the America First Committee. It is requested that the pertinent material obtained in the investigation of Laura Houghtaling Ingalls be included in the first investigative report of the above captioned organization.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

APR 4 1942

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-4712-307

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 2

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

FILE NO. 100-6101

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 3/13/42	REPORT MADE BY DANIEL T. McLAUGHLIN DTM:GP
-------------------------------------	---------------------------	---

NAME OF CONVICT WITH ALIASES:

Laura Houghtaling Ingalls, with aliases, Aunt Ellen, Aunt Minnie, Aunt Nellie, Ellen Patriot and Segetarius, "H".

VIOLATION:

Act of June 8, 1938 as amended by Act of August 7, 1939. (Foreign Agents Registration Act)

## PAROLE REPORT

### OUTLINE OF OFFENSE FOR WHICH CONVICTED

*See prison file 100-34712-174*

Laura Houghtaling Ingalls, well known woman flier, made her first known business contact with representatives of the German Government when she visited Dr. Hans Thomsen, Charge d' Affairs of the German Embassy in Washington, D. C. on January 23, 1941. At this time she admittedly offered her services to the German Government and was unsuccessful in obtaining any employment. Subsequent to this time and during the spring and summer of 1941, she made many contacts with various of the German Diplomatic Officials in the United States, including Hans Borchers, Consul General of the German Consulate in New York City, Fritz Wiedeman, Consul General of the German Consulate in San Francisco and Dr. Thomsen of the German Embassy. She also wrote numerous letters to the German Embassy many of which reflected her admiration for the Nazi Regime.

During the month of June and July Ingalls was very active in the non-interventionists program in the state of California, speaking regularly before America First and various Mother's Isolationists organizations there. In the month of August 1941 she flew to Washington, D. C. from California acting as a courier for the "Mothers of Los Angeles" and carried with her the Isolationist's pleas of that group to the President and Vice-President of the United States and also a quantity of Isolationist's leaflets which she distributed to Senators and Congressmen. While in Washington she met Julia Kraus, who at that time resided at 933 L Street, N. W. Kraus was acquainted with Fritz Wagner, Messenger

(DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES)

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>SK McKee</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	100-34712-174 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION MAR 14 1942 DEPT. OF JUSTICE ROUTED TO <i>FILE</i>	RECORDED AND INDEXED CHECKED OFF JACKETED
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO 5 Bureau JUN 17 1942 2 Washington Field		

COPIES DESTROYED 8/12/59

at the German Embassy and his wife, BERNHARDINE WAGNER, both of whom resided with Baron ULRICH VON GIENANTH, Second Secretary of the German Embassy at 707 Broadly Boulevard, Chevy Chase, Maryland. Through KRAUS and WAGNER, INGALLS met Baron VON GIENANTH and again offered her services to the German Government. After a brief period of indecision on the part of Baron VON GIENANTH, a tentative working agreement was made with INGALLS to be confirmed abroad by the German Government. Pursuant to this agreement, which called for \$300.00 per month salary to be paid to INGALLS by VON GIENANTH in return for her services in attempting to further isolationist cause in the United States, she embarked on a long series of seeking engagements before American First and other isolationist organizations.

INGALLS spoke in and about New York City almost daily from the latter part of September until the end of the first week in November. This series of speaking engagements was broken only by her periodic trips to Washington from New York City, either leading an isolationist group in a demonstration for peace or against Lend Lease Aid at the Senate and House Office Building, or when she came to Washington to confer with Baron VON GIENANTH. She also made one short trip to Chicago late in September to participate in a convention of representatives of Mother's Isolationist Groups from all over the United States, sponsored by "We the Mother's Mobilize for America Incorporated" at which convention she was one of the principal speakers.

During the month of November 1941, she toured the middle west in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin and traveled as far West as Colorado, speaking almost daily before American First committee meetings and on radio programs. Her final appearance was in Lansing, Michigan, during the first week in December, after which she returned to Washington seeking instructions for carrying on her activities for the German cause after the departure of the Diplomatic Representatives.

All during the period of her speaking engagement she reflected the Nazi Philosophy, quoting freely from Hitler's "My New Order" and "Mein Kampf" and she was vicious in her attacks against the administration and its foreign policy, going as far on a few occasions as to suggest that the isolationists might have to resort to force to make themselves heard in their anti-war efforts.

In November while at Racine, Wisconsin, she received word from Baron VON GIENANTH that her agreement with him had been confirmed by the German Government abroad, and that she should continue with her work through December. During the period of this working agreement INGALLS is known to have been paid \$500.00 from the German Government, \$100.00 of

which was intercepted before it reached her by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She kept in constant communication with Baron VON GIENANTH all during the period, through JULIA KRAUS and the WAGNERS who acted as intermediaries between Baron VON GIENANTH and INGALLS, using aliases and various coded systems of communication. At various times during this period INGALLS, clandestinely and by means of the intermediaries and in a manner designed to conceal the true nature of her activities, held numerous conferences with Baron VON GIENANTH with respect to her activities and her effort to influence people of the United States against War. She made regular reports to Baron VON GIENANTH regarding her activities and also received from him a quantity of propaganda literature. On December 18, 1941, after being confronted with a record of her activities and interviewed regarding them by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, she signed a written statement admitting all of the activities set out but denying any disloyal motive. In her statement which is unsupported by other evidence, she related that all of her activities and contacts with the German Diplomatic Officials were made for the purpose of ingratiating herself into their confidence so that she could carry out a private counter-espionage program by herself.

At no time did INGALLS register with the State Department of the United States as an Agent of a Foreign Principal as is required by the Foreign Agents Registration Act for such persons. Nor did she at any time indicate any intention of doing so. On December 18, 1941 INGALLS was charged by complaint in the District of Columbia with a violation of the Act of June 8, 1938 as amended by the Act of August 7, 1939, commonly referred to as the "Registration Act" and at this time she entered a plea of "Not Guilty". Bond was fixed by the commissioner at \$7500.00 on which bond she was released shortly thereafter. On December 23, 1941 the Federal Grand Jury for the District of Columbia returned an indictment charging the same violation and on January 5, 1942 a plea of "Nolle Contendere" was tendered by INGALLS and refused by the court. On January 16, 1942, upon arraignment on the indictment, INGALLS entered a plea of "Not Guilty" and on February 13, 1942, after being duly tried in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, she was found guilty of being an unregistered Foreign Agent of the German Reich as charged in the indictment. On February 20, 1942 she was sentenced to confinement in the penitentiary for a period of from eight months to two years as provided in the statute by Justice JAMES W. MORRIS, Federal District Judge for the District of Columbia. She was remanded on the same date without bond to the District of Columbia Jail where she has remained to the date of this report.

AGGRAVATING OR MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES

There appear to be no mitigating circumstances in connection with this crime. LAURA INGALLS apparently has always been a problem to her family. She has very few, if any, friends among her flying associates, and acquaintances and is a very egotistical, radical, person. As early as April 1940 she expressed her pro-Nazi sympathies by saying that she was "in sympathy with Hitler and in accord with him and his ideals," that she admired the way Hitler accomplished things. At this time INGALLS said that "the American form of government is un-satisfactory; that the Americans are dumb concerning political governmental systems and if the country had a man like Hitler conditions would be improved." She said "it would take a man like Hitler to run the United States right."

She gained a reputation as a pro-Nazi sympathizer in flying circles and in May of 1940 she voiced her sympathies for the Nazi cause again in an argument concerning aid to Britain. She stated "our crazy democracy is aiding Britain when it should be aiding Germany, the administration is making money on munitions and Hitler will eventually get control of the United States because of our stupidity. She stated that "Hitlers plans are supreme" and that Roosevelt is pushing the United States into a war with one nation that we should be friendly with, also that Germany would eventually win the war inspite of our assistance. She is reported to have announced that Hitler would conquer the United States, that he has the facilities and knows what to do.

She voiced her pro-Hitler sentiments many times and in March 1941 after becoming acquainted with Dr. THOMSEN of the German Embassy and other German Diplomatic Officials, she is known to have stated to another individual "Hitler will be over here and we must be ready, this democracy is the bunk and it can not last, I am working to prepare the people to receive Hitler when he comes here and we must work toward that end." She stated at this time that this country is in the hands of the Jews and there will be trouble when Hitler comes over here. She also said "I am hoping to get to Berlin to get instructions as to how to proceed, there must be a plan."

At this time INGALLS was in possession of a passport to South America and she is reported to have been attempting at this time, with the cooperation of Axis Diplomatic Officials in the United States, to arrange for illegal passage from South America to Europe where she had some idea of writing articles reflecting the true condition in Germany for consumption in the United States.

During the late spring of 1941 she is known to have written several letters to the German Embassy in Washington, D. C., expressing

great joy over German victories of the past years and she is reported to have expressed a belief that Germany would be victorious in the war and as a result would gain control of the United States, after which German sympathizers in the United States would be given recognition as a reward for their interest in the cause. During the dictation of her statement on December 18, 1941, and as a defense from the stand in the trial of this case, INGALLS stated that it was her intention by establishing herself and maintaining contracts with the German Embassy to ingratiate herself into the confidence of the German Diplomatic representatives and thereby place herself in a position where she might be able to obtain information concerning the German program in the United States, which she states she was trying to turn over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In this connection she states that she had not yet obtained sufficient information to be of any material value in the national defense effort and for that reason did not report to the Federal Bureau of Investigation or advise them of the fact that she was carrying on this alleged program of counter-espionage on her own. On February 8, 1942, the night before the beginning of the trial INGALLS came to Washington, D. C. and moved in with JULIA KRAUS, who was to be used as a government witness for the prosecution in this case. JULIA KRAUS had disclosed the fact that on December 18, 1941 shortly before INGALLS was questioned by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, INGALLS had stated to her that if either of them were questioned by the F.B.I. KRAUS should say to the F.B.I. that all of the money which she, KRAUS, had sent to INGALLS was a loan by KRAUS to INGALLS, and at this time INGALLS told KRAUS that if she were questioned she would tell the F.B.I. that fliers are strange people, that you do not know what is in their minds and that she would tell the F.B.I. that she was conducting a private investigation on her own. This preconceived defense by INGALLS was related in a signed statement given by KRAUS on the 17th of December 1941. INGALLS, after arriving at KRAUS house on February 8, 1942, discussed with her the statement which she had given to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and told her that she should not volunteer any information but should let the Federal Bureau of Investigation find this out for itself. Subsequent to the trial KRAUS has advised that at this time INGALLS also told her that she could not tell her lawyer the truth because he would not handle her case. Also she told KRAUS that she had influenced many thousands of people during the time she had been engaged in her speaking efforts and she felt that she would not have any trouble with "twelve men good and true." She also told KRAUS at this time that she was sorry that she had not left the country and jumped her bond, and that she should have let her brother ABBOTT INGALLS loose the \$7500.00 collateral which had been offered for her release because of the fact that he had never been any particular good to her anyway.

### HISTORY OF THE DEFENDANT

LAURA INGALLS is a citizen of the United States, un-married, and 46 years of age. She was born in New York City in 1896 to Mr. F. ABBOTT INGALLS and Mrs. MARTHA HOUGHTALING INGALLS, good people, now deceased, who the record reflects on September 28, 1923 advised the credit bureau of Greater New York, that they would not be responsible for any purchases made by their daughter LAURA INGALLS. The records of the Civil Aeronautics Authority erroneously reflect that LAURA INGALLS was born December 14, 1903, New York City; however she has explained that the seven years difference in age was of considerable importance when she began her flying career.

It is reported that she was raised by a German nurse until she was seven years of age. Her education was in private schools in the East, including McKeevers School in New York, Mrs. SPENCE's and other similar private institutions. She lived with her grandfather during some of this period because, as she explained, her mother was caring for her brother who was not well. She studied music and language in Vienna and in Paris as a part of her education. She studied nursing in the Presbyterian Hospital Training School in New York but soon quit that too. She was employed as a stenographer by CROSS and BROWN Company in New York City in 1924 and 1925. In 1926 she traveled with the Maria Montero Troupe for forty weeks performing a Spanish dance. It is reported that she also tried the concert stage but gave it up.

Her father F. ABBOTT INGALLS died in 1928 a retired cotton merchant and in December 1928 with a legacy of \$5,000.000 LAURA INGALLS entered upon a flying career which has occupied her since that time. During these years she built up a record as one of the most outstanding women pilots in the United States, flying for the most part her own personally owned airplanes. She established a loop-the-loop and barrel-roll record and followed this in 1930 by establishing a transcontinental flying speed record for women. In 1934 she flew alone over the South American Andes, visiting or flying over most of the South American countries. She was awarded the Harmon Trophy for women in this year for the records established in her South American accomplishments.

She obtained a blind-flying and radio license in the following year and also set new transcontinental flying record. She won the second prize money in the Bendix-Cross Country Air races in 1936 and thereafter engaged in exhibition flying on the West Coast. In September 1939 she created a national stir and her flying license was suspended by the Civil Aeronautics Authority when she dropped Appeasement Pamphlets.

over the White House in Washington, D. C. When refused admission to a meeting of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Senate on the following day, she burst into a denunciation of the United States Government.

She owns an F.H.A. financed home in Burbank, California in which she lived most of the time until she launched herself upon her most recent activities in the America First Committee and with the German Government. She is a very forceful speaker and her activities in Women's anti-War Organizations and the America First Committee as a speaker were very extensive and effective in 1941.

There is no record that INGALLS ever married and apparently she has always been a very egotistical, independent individual who had her way. She hasn't had much home life with her family and apparently has spent most of her adult life alone. She is not well liked in flying circles or at flying fields in spite of her numerous accomplishments because of her temper and lack of consideration of other people and the possession of a very distant and frigid manner. The only other surviving member of her immediate family is her brother ABBOTT INGALLS who is assistant commissioner of Welfare in New York State and is very highly regarded. He maintains a home in Loudenville, New York and an apartment at 42 Park Avenue, New York City. He is married to MABEL SATTERLEE INGALLS, a grand daughter of J. P. LORGAN and daughter of HERBERT L. SATTERLEE one of New York's wealthy citizens.

It is reported that LAURA INGALLS has received a specified monthly allowance from her brother for some time and that it has been necessary for him to come to her rescue on numerous occasions.

LAURA HOUGHTALING INGALLS has no past criminal record other than a few minor traffic violations.



**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.**

FPE:AJP

October 4, 1943

Call: 9:45 P.M., 10/3/43

Dictation: 9:30 A.M., 10/4/43

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: LAURA INGALLS;  
REGISTRATION ACT

Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Acers \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Starke \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

In connection with the Walter Winchell broadcast on October 3, 1943, Supervisor E. P. Brown telephonically contacted the Washington Field Division relative to a beating given Laura Ingalls by the inmates of a Federal jail. Special Agent Robert W. Arthur, who was on the desk at the Washington Field Office, checked this matter and called back advising that Miss Ingalls had been removed from the District of Columbia Jail on July 24, 1943. There was no indication as to where she had been sent.

Special Agent C. C. Nelson of the New York Field Division was telephonically contacted at 10:55 P.M. for any available information relative to this matter. Agent Nelson called back a short time later advising that Father Murphy, a Priest from Washington, D. C., had advised Special Agent Daniel T. McLaughlin that he had a few days previously overheard a conversation between Frank Doyle, Political Editor of the New York Daily Mirror, and a Chaplin from the Lorton, Virginia Penitentiary, where Laura Ingalls was incarcerated. The Chaplin was stated to have mentioned that Laura Ingalls was not getting along well with the other prisoners and that she had been beaten up by them. Doyle at the time was in Washington for the purpose of securing a story on Laura Ingalls. No information was available to the New York Office as to the cause of the beating administered to Miss Ingalls by the inmates of the Lorton Prison.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this information be made a matter of record.

Respectfully,

*F. L. Welch*  
F. L. Welch

RECORDED

EX-24

535  
54 OCT 20 1943  
202

100-572231
F B I
14 OCT 16 1943
gfb

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

JAS:lem

Time: 2:37 to 2:42 p.m.

October 4, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: LAURA INGALLS  
REGISTRATION ACT

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Beahm	
Miss Gandy	

To supplement the information contained in SA E. P. Brown's memorandum with reference to Mr. Winchell's broadcast of October 3, 1943, you are advised that I had SA J. A. Sizoo call Richmond and request the Richmond office to determine the facts with reference to the alleged beating of Laura Ingalls.

SAC E. F. Kuhnelt of the Huntington Field Division called the Bureau at the above time, advising that SA G. M. Willis of the Richmond Field Division relayed the Bureau's request for information to Huntington. SACKuhnelt stated that the beating of Ingalls took place on February 19, 1943, at the D. C. Workhouse at Occoquan, Virginia, between 10:30 and 10:45 a.m. He advised that the records at Alderson, where Ingalls was confined until October 1, 1943, indicated that for some reason or other the dormitory lights had been turned out on the morning in question and that Ingalls was attacked by [redacted] and [redacted]. One held Ingalls and the other beat her with a hair brush to such an extent that she was hospitalized for two weeks. The incident, according to the records, was investigated by prison authorities and a report was submitted to Mr. E. A. Green, Superintendent of the D. C. Jail. The report indicated that the assault was provoked by Ingalls, she having engaged in a previous argument with [redacted] over a blanket and having called [redacted] a "gutter rat." The conclusion was that Ingalls was entirely responsible and that the investigation did not indicate that any political matters were involved or that Ingalls had, as Mr. Winchell indicated, attempted to "Nazify" the jail. 7C

SACKuhnelt further advised that Ingalls was released from Alderson on October 1, 1943, and that she was to report to the Probation Officer in New York City on October 2, 1943, stopping at the Washington, D. C., Jail en route to pick up certain personal property. He stated that the authorities at Alderson indicated that she had a good record there and had not been the cause of any trouble at that institution. She is reported to have been transferred from Occoquan to the D. C. Jail after the incident referred to and on July 24, 1943, was transferred to the Women's Correctional Institution at Alderson, West Virginia.



52 OCT 18 1943

RECORDED  
RespectfullyF. L. Welch  
F. L. Welch100-71222  
B  
OCT 12 1943  
J. H. G. 10/12/43

RECEIVED  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 1 1943

RECEIVED

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Acers	✓
Mr. Carson	✓
Mr. Hendon	✓
Mr. Mumford	✓
Mr. Satch	✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Miss Gandy	✓
Tele. Room	✓

WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK

1 - 4 3-50 AM

DIRECTOR

ULNA. LAURA INGALLS. REGISTRATION ACT- G. REFERENCE TELEPHONE CON-  
VERSATION BETWEEN E. P. BROWN OF BUREAU AND SPECIAL AGENT C. & C.  
NELSON OCTOBER THIRD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY THREE. N. Y. DAILY  
MIRROR OF OCTOBER FOURTH, NINETEEN FORTY THREE CONTAINS ARTICLE BY FRANK  
DOYLE, UNDER WASHINGTON DATE LINE OCTOBER THIRD, NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY THREE ENTITLED QUOTE PRISONERS BEAT UP LAURA INGALLS FOR EX-  
TOLLING HITLERISM UNQUOTE. FIRST PARAGRAPH OF ARTICLE INDICATES INGALLS  
IMPRISONED WASHINGTON AND THAT INGALLS REMOVED TO ANOTHER PRISON  
AFTER BEATEN UP.

CONROY

CORRECTIONS & SHOULD BE C.  
IXX SHOULD BE DISCOUNTED

RECORDED

100-34712-228  
35 OCT 8 1943

52 OCT 1 1943

NY R 1 W

HAS NO BEARING ON MESSAGE

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 4

This Case Originated At WASHINGTON, D. C.

File No. 100-6101

Report Made At  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Date When Made Period for  
2-25-44 Which Made  
1-7,8,10;  
2-9-44

Report made by  
WILLIAM J. MCCARTHY WJM:JC

Title  
LAURA INGALLS

Character of Case  
SEDITION

## Synopsis of Facts:

On January 3, 1944, a special Grand Jury in the District of Columbia returned an indictment against 30 individuals charging them with violating Section 11 of Title 18, U.S. Code (Peace Time Sedition Statute). A list of the persons indicted is set forth. This list includes the persons who were indicted on January 4, 1943, by a special Grand Jury in the District of Columbia for having violated Section 11, Title 18, and Section 34, Title 50, U. S. Code and who were reindicted on January 3, 1944. A separate list is also set out containing the names of the persons indicted on January 4, 1943, and not reindicted on January 3, 1944. A third list of persons is also set out containing the names of persons who were considered by the Grand Jury but who were not indicted. The subjects are to be arraigned just prior to the trial and it is hoped that the trial will commence on March 1, 1944.

- C -

## REFERENCE:

Bureau letter to the Kansas City Field Division dated July 14, 1943, in the case entitled "UNITED STATES versus GEORGE B. WINROD with aliases, et al, SEDITION."

## DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

This report is being written to reflect the recent indictment of 30 persons for having violated Section 11, Title 18, U. S. Code, also known as the Peace Time Sedition Statute. In view of the fact that all of these persons are charged as conspirators only one report is being prepared to reflect

Approved and  
Forwarded

*Wm J. McCarthy*

Special Agent  
in Charge

Do Not Write in These Spaces

1 - Bureau  
2 - Washington Field

100-34712-238 RECD

35 FEB 28 1944

77 MAR 4 1944 43

WFO -

the indictment. A sufficient number of copies of this report are being prepared in order that the Bureau may be provided with five copies for the file entitled "UNITED STATES vs. GERALD B. WINROD, with aliases, et al; GERALD B. WINROD, Defendant, SEDITION," Bureau file 65-9483. The Bureau is also being furnished with a sufficient number of copies so that one copy may be placed in the subject file of each person listed in this report as having been reindicted, previously indicted or considered by the special Grand Jury and not indicted. Each one of these reports will contain the name of the particular individual in the title. One copy of this report is being placed in each subject file in the Washington Field Office of the persons listed in this report. Two copies of this report are being sent to the office of origin wherein investigation is being conducted concerning each person listed in this report whether indicted or not.

Docket number 73086 of the U. S. District Court, District of Columbia reflects that on January 3, 1944, the following persons were indicted by a special Grand Jury for having violated Section 11, Title 18, U. S. Code:

1. JOSEPH E. McWILLIAMS
2. GEORGE E. DEATHERAGE
3. WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY
4. JAMES TRUE
5. EDWARD JAMES SMYTHE
6. LAWRENCE DENNIS
7. HOWARD VICTOR BROENSTRUPP, alias COUNT VICTOR  
GRETER SPIRIDOVICH
8. ROBERT EDWARDS EDMONDSON
9. E. J. PARKER SAGE
10. WILLIAM ROBERT LYMAN, JR.
11. GARLAND L. ALDERMAN
12. GERALD B. WINROD

WFO

13. ELIZABETH DILLING, was
14. CHARLES B. HUDSON
15. ELMER J. GARNER
16. GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK alias JAMES BURR HAMILTON
17. PRESCOTT FREESE DENNETT
18. GERHARD WILHEIM KUNZE
19. AUGUST KLAPPROTT
20. HERMAN MAX SCHWINN
21. HANS DIEBEL
22. FRANZ K. FERENZ
23. ERNEST FREDERIK ELMHURST
24. ROBERT NOBLE
25. ELLIS O. JONES
26. EUGENE NELSON SANCTUARY
27. DAVID BAXTER, with aliases JOHN PEPPER, JOHN H. RAND
28. LOIS DE LAFAYETTE WASHBURN, alias T.N.T.
29. FRANK W. CLARK, alias G.P.
30. PETER STAHRNBERG

The indictment returned by the special Grand Jury on January 3, 1944, sets forth that in 1933 the National Socialist German Workers Party, also known as the Nazi Party, came into power in Germany upon a program announced by its leaders to destroy democracy throughout the world and establish

WFO -

faecist forms of government in place of the forms of government then existing in the United States and other countries. As a means of accomplishing their objective the Nazi Party carried on a campaign of propaganda designed and intended to impair and undermine the loyalty and morale of the military and naval forces of the United States and other countries. The persons listed above joined in this movement and program and actively cooperated with each other and with the leaders of the Nazi Party to accomplish the objectives of said Nazi Party in the United States.

The 30 persons above-listed in violation of Section 11, Title 18, U. S. Code, unlawfully, wilfully, feloniously and knowingly conspired with each other and officials of the German Reich to commit acts prohibited by Section 9, Title 18, U. S. Code in that they, with intent to interfere with, impair and influence the loyalty, morale and discipline of the military and naval forces of the United States

1. Advised, counseled and caused insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny and refusal of duty by members of the military and naval forces of the United States; and
2. Distributed and caused to be distributed written and printed matter, advising, counseling, and urging insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny and refusal of duty by members of the military and naval forces of the United States,

The indictment goes on to point out that the defendants, in carrying out the conspiracy printed, published and distributed many magazines, books, leaflets, circulars, etc., and also organized, supported, used and controlled a number of organizations, and further that through the publications and organizations they disseminated oral, written and printed statements charging, among other things, that democracy was decadent and that a National Socialist or Faecist form of government should be established in the United States.

The indiotment liste many other charges disseminated by the 30 defendante and which charges are aimed at the loadere of the United States and the democratic system and are designed to undermine the loyalty and morale of the armed forces.

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Two copies of the indictment which were furnished to the Washington Field Division by the Bureau are being made a part of the Washington Field Office file in the case entitled "U.S. VS. GERALD B. WINROD, with aliases, et al, SEDITION."

Persone previously indicted by a special Grand Jury in the District of Columbia on January 4, 1943, but who were not reindicted by the special Grand Jury on January 3, 1944, are as follows:

1. WILLIAM GRIFFIN
2. NEW YORK ENQUIRER, INC.
3. PAQUITA DE SHISHMAREFF, with aliases
4. HUDSON DE PRIEST
5. WILLIAM KULLGREN
6. C. LEON DE ARYAN
7. COURT ASHER
8. OSCAR BRUMBACK
9. RALPH TOWNSEND
10. DONALD McDANIEL
11. OTTO BRENNERMANN, aka OTTO BRENNEMANN
12. JAMES F. GARNER,

Although these persone were not reindicted on January 3, 1944, the original indictment against them is still outstanding.

A number of persone were considered by the Grand Jury which returned the indictment against the 30 persons on January 3, 1944, but these persons were not indicted along with the others, and they are as follows:

WFO -

1. HENRY B. ALLEN
2. IDA MAE COOPER
3. JOHN EOGHAN KELLY
4. MERVIN K. HART
5. HUBERT SCHMUEDERRICH
6. FERDINAND HANSEN
7. HOMER MAERTZ
- X 8. LAURA INGALLS
9. JOSEPH P. KAMP
10. RALPH BEAVER STRASSBURGER

On January 17, 1944, Attorney JOHN REDDAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., advised that the special Grand Jury which returned the indictment against the 30 persons on January 3, 1944, was still in session, and that additional testimony was being given. However, he did not expect any additional subjects to be added to the 30 already indicted. He advised that as a matter of convenience for the defendants and also as a matter of economy, the defendants were to be arraigned just before the trial. He anticipated that all would plead not guilty. He further stated that unless a number of unforeseen things happen the trial should commence about March 1, 1944.

- C L O S E D -

BDO: HAD

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - AIR POUCH

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INDEXED

Date: May 12, 1945

To: Mr. Robert W. Wall, Jr.  
The American Embassy  
Mexico, D. F.

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Laura Houghtaling Ingalls  
[REDACTED] C B1

[REDACTED] B1  
[REDACTED] C

[REDACTED] B1  
[REDACTED] C

Attachment

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

57 JUN 15 1945

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June 6, 1942

MEMORANDUM

LAURA HOUGHTALING INGALLS  
REGISTRATION ACT

*Summary*

Laura Houghtaling Ingalls, speed flier and self-styled "international Mata Hari," was convicted in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, Friday, February 13, 1942, on a charge that she acted as a paid agent of the German Reich without registering with the State Department. Bob-haired and graying, the aviatrix and erstwhile noninterventionist was convicted by a jury of 10 men and 2 women in one hour and 23 minutes. She was sentenced to serve from 8 months to 2 years in prison.

This is the only instance that has come to the attention of U. S. authorities where a German Embassy official actually contracted with a native-born American citizen to influence public opinion toward nonintervention and neutrality. Miss Ingalls was convicted of violating the Registration Act of 1938, as amended, requiring registration with the Secretary of State of all agents of foreign principals engaged in propaganda activities in the United States.

Miss Ingalls admitted accepting money from a German diplomat while she was promoting American neutrality in 1941. When convicted, Miss Ingalls' only comment was, "Well, it's Friday the 13th." Her defense was that she had been doing counterespionage work for the United States and against Germany.

During the course of the trial, Miss Ingalls was asked why she was interested in espionage work. "I have a strong imagination," she replied. "I saw myself as a sort of Mata Hari, an international spy. I wanted to serve my country. I was fascinated."

Introduced at the trial were Laura Ingalls' own writings wherein she exulted over Germany's conquest of Crete and the destruction of the British battle cruiser Hood.

Miss Ingalls' first known contact with an official representative of the German Government occurred in January, 1941, when she visited the German Embassy, 1439 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C., and offered her services to the German government. It is known, also, that she made an appointment in April, 1941, for an interview with Hans Thomsen, Minister Plenipotentiary and chargé d'affaires ad interim, German Embassy. Her efforts to interest Thomsen, however, were unsuccessful. During July, 1941, Miss Ingalls spoke on several occasions for the America First Committee in Los Angeles, California, and vicinity. Through these speeches she reportedly established herself with a group of women in Los Angeles.

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an organization known as the "Mothers of Los Angeles," and under their sponsorship flew to Washington, D. C., in early August, 1941, as a courier to present letters addressed to the President and Vice President, urging neutrality. At the time of this visit to Washington, Miss Ingalls met Julia Kraus, an employee of the Alley Dwelling Authority, a subdivision of the District of Columbia government. Miss Kraus was a woman of pronounced German sympathies and was personally acquainted with Fritz Wagner, and his wife Bernhard Wagner, who were employed as domestics in the residence of Baron Ulrich von Gienanth, Second Secretary of the German Embassy, Chevy Chase, Maryland. Through the intercession of Miss Kraus, Laura Ingalls first conferred with Baron von Gienanth on September 17, 1941, at his home. As a result of this conference and subsequent negotiations, a tentative agreement was reached whereby Miss Ingalls would be paid \$250.00 per month. This verbal contract was subsequently revised to increase this salary to \$300.00 a month. It was agreed that Julia Kraus and the Wagners would act as intermediaries between Baron von Gienanth and Miss Ingalls, and that aliases would be used by all parties concerned in correspondence and otherwise. Baron von Gienanth was to be known as "Mother," Miss Ingalls as "Ellen," and Miss Kraus as "Guten Rutch" (happy landings). The aliases for Miss Ingalls and Miss Kraus varied at times; however, that of Baron von Gienanth remained constant.

This contract for services went into effect on or about October 1, 1941, and during that month Miss Ingalls made thirteen appearances in New York City and vicinity for the America First Committee and one appearance for Women United, a women's peace group. She also accompanied a pilgrimage of the Brooklyn America First Chapter to Washington where a demonstration was staged against the revision of the Neutrality Act. For these services, she personally received from Baron von Gienanth, while in New York City, the sum of \$250.00 in cash. During November, 1941, Miss Ingalls continued to appear before the America First Committee Chapters in the New York area, until she proceeded to Chicago and the Middle West on November 12, 1941. When in Chicago, she received a telegraphic money order through Miss Kraus as intermediary, in the sum of \$50, and another while in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in the sum of \$100.00.

Her activities were not limited to making appearances before America First Committee meetings, but she also gave radio interviews where these could be arranged. At the outbreak of the war she returned to Washington, D. C., where she was advised by Baron von Gienanth that her services were no longer required.

The investigation was intensified at this point and on December 17, 1941, both Miss Ingalls and Miss Kraus were interviewed by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and admissions of their activities secured. Miss Ingalls readily admitted the facts mentioned hereinbefore but tendered as her motive that she was in reality carrying on counter-espionage work.

Miss Kraus admitted that this was a prearranged story of Laura Ingalls to be given in the event of arrest. Miss Ingalls, however, straight through the trial of this case, maintained that she was operating as a "lone wolf" to uncover espionage activities of the German government for the

benefit of the American authorities. She at no time submitted any of the details of her activities to the authorities. Her obvious alibi was not believed by the jury, in view of the testimony setting forth her known past sentiments toward Hitler and the Third Reich.

On December 18, 1941, a complaint was filed against Miss Ingalls before the United States Commissioner for the District of Columbia, for violation of the Registration Act.

Another interesting feature that occurred during the rapidly moving developments is that Fritz Wagner, on the evening of December 17, 1941, delivered \$100.00 in cash to Mrs. Julia Kraus, mother of the intermediary, for delivery to Miss Ingalls. This was the final payment made in the matter, and this is substantiated by Miss Kraus, that \$100.00 was still owed her. There is no indication, however, that Baron von Gienanth recognized this debt.

Documentary evidence personally secured from Miss Ingalls, from her residence in New York City, as well as from the residence of Miss Kraus, was obtained by waiver of search and search warrant. It consisted of personal diaries and notebooks, a considerable amount of America First Literature and other isolationist literature, together with a quantity of German propaganda published both in Berlin, Germany, and by the German Library of Information in New York City. Indications are that Baron von Gienanth himself delivered some of the German material to Miss Ingalls, through Miss Kraus.

Miss Ingalls, in all of her speeches throughout the country was vicious in her attacks against the Administration, and presented her arguments in a forceful and dramatic manner, expressing as her purpose, to keep America out of war. Throughout the period, in her speeches and correspondence, she reflected the Nazi philosophy. Reports from numerous individuals in the aviation and other fields indicate that Miss Ingalls was of the belief that Hitler and his National Socialism would ultimately come to the United States, and that she was, more or less, a self-appointed emissary to prepare this country for that contingency. These sentiments dated back long before her contact with the German representatives. She even went so far as to wear a silver swastika on her wrist, and had a swastika formed with tape in the cockpit of her plane.

Statements made in her speeches in an attempt to encourage nonintervention and neutrality, were so obnoxious that if she had made them in time of war, it is reasonable to assume that they would have been declared seditious. As an example, in her address before the America First Committee in Appleton, Wisconsin, November 13, 1941, she contended in part that "the President and his foreign policy are directly responsible for the murder of one hundred men on the 'Rusben James.'" She tried to point out the futility of endeavoring to support the Allies, and inferred that German military was invincible. She pooh-poohed the idea of invasion of the United States, and contended that "Great Britain definitely committed herself to the effort

of reconquering America." From the economic standpoint, she asserted that if Germany won the war, the wage scale and standard of living in this country would rise, and that the United States would be a great trade nation. The above are only representative of the defeatism expounded by this "Little Fuhrer."

Not infrequently, Miss Ingalls in her correspondence would use such terms as "Heil Hitler." She reveled over Ally defeats. The reference books she used most were "Mein Kampf" and "My New Order," both written by Hitler. Many instances were found where she would underline quotations that particularly appealed to her. In her speech notes, innumerable instances occurred where verbatim quotations were taken from "My New Order" and "Mein Kampf." These speech notes were the ones used by her in her appearances before the America First Committee.

On the basis of this preponderant evidence, a Federal Grand Jury on December 23, 1941, returned an indictment against Miss Ingalls. She subsequently tendered a plea of nolo contendere to the Court, which was denied, and upon arraignment for trial entered a plea of not guilty. On Friday, February 13, 1942, Miss Ingalls was convicted by the petit jury sitting at the District Court for the District of Columbia, and was subsequently sentenced to serve from eight months to two years in an institution designated by the Attorney General. No appeal was taken.

Miss Ingalls contended that she was about thirty-eight years of age, but during the investigation and trial scrupulously avoided making a definite statement as to her age. Information from other sources, however, indicates that she was born in New York City in 1896. It was reported that she at one time was a vaudeville dancer. She did not come into public prominence until 1928, when she made her first solo flight at Roosevelt Field, Long Island, New York. In 1936, she won second prize of \$2,500.00 in the Bendix air race from California to New York, and held a number of women's flying records during the early part of the 1930's. She is widely known in aviation circles, and in 1938 received her instrument rating from the Civil Aeronautics Authority, as a result of qualifying in blind flying and radio technician work.

Press reports under date of September 27, 1939, indicate that the Civil Aeronautics Authority had ordered Miss Ingalls to show reason why her license should not be revoked because of her having flown through restricted areas when she dropped peace pamphlets from her airplane in the vicinity of the White House and Capitol. At that time she was reportedly associated with the Women's National Committee to Keep the United States Out of War, New York City.

Miss Ingalls was educated in New York, Vienna, and Paris. She won her transport license at the age of 25, being the 15th woman in the country to do so. On September 3, 1936, she finished second in the Bendix continental derby of the National Air Races at Los Angeles, making the solo flight from Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, to the Los Angeles Municipal Airport in 15 hours, 39 minutes, 23 seconds.

Flying solo around South America in 1934, Miss Ingalls completed a journey of 22,000 miles, including a crossing the Andes. For this she received the Harmon Trophy and the U. S. women's award of the Ligue Internationale des Aviateurs. In October, 1935, she set a new West-East trans-continental U. S. record, flying from Burbank, California, to Floyd Bennett Field in 13 hours, 34 minutes.

Miss Ingalls started her flying training at Roosevelt Field in 1928, went to St. Louis and became the first woman to graduate from a government approved flying school. In 1930, she set new marks for acrobatics, making 980 consecutive loops and 714 consecutive barrel rolls. She set the first coast to coast air mark for women in 1930. Her time was 25 hours, 35 minutes.

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd

FROM : F. J. Baumgardner

SUBJECT: LAURA HOUGHTALING INGALLS, was  
INTERNAL SECURITY - R  
Bureau File 100-34712

DATE: November 22, 1949

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

By reference from the Director's Office on the afternoon of November 21, 1949, the captioned individual came to my office. She stated that she had been to the Director's Office but had been informed that he was out of town and that Mr. Petersen (Robert Petersen) had told her he did not know when the Director would return to Washington.

Miss Ingalls stated that this seemed to be a very unusual state of affairs to her that the Director would not advise his own office when he could be expected to be in his office. She said she thought the Director, as head of an important agency of the Government, should be available to discuss important matters with people who came to see him. She stated that she knew he is undoubtedly a very busy man and that the demands upon his time must be very great indeed but that she was willing to wait for an appointment and that she did not desire to talk with anyone except Mr. Hoover, himself.

I told Miss Ingalls that I would be very glad to take any information she had which might be of interest to the Bureau and assured her that any information furnished to me would receive whatever attention was warranted.

She stated she did not desire to talk to anyone except the Director and added that what she had to discuss was of a somewhat personal nature and that therefore she wanted to discuss the matter with the Director personally. She then asked me if I would attempt to arrange an interview for her on either November 22 or 23, 1949. In her presence I phoned Mr. Gordon Nease who advised me that the Director would not be able to see Miss Ingalls on the days mentioned.

I told Miss Ingalls that the Director would not be able to see her and again pointed out to her that I would take the information and that the Director would be advised of the information she had furnished. She again stated that she wanted to talk to the Director personally but that if she changed her mind she would call me again. On November 22, 1949, Miss Ingalls called me and stated that she had decided to return to New York and that she would attempt by correspondence to arrange an appointment with the Director. She added that the information she possessed was not of an immediate urgent nature, but stated that she had made up her mind to see the Director and she did not want to talk with anyone else because she liked to carry through with any plans she had made. In view of her statement, it is anticipated that she will write to the Director asking for a personal interview.

For your information, Laura Ingalls was convicted in Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, Friday, February 13, 1942, on a charge that she had acted as a paid agent of the German Reich without having registered with

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*Handwritten initials and signatures*

*Handwritten initials and signatures*

the U. S. Department of State. She was sentenced to serve from eight months to two years in an institution to be designated by the Attorney General. She did not take an appeal from this sentence.

— She was born in New York City in 1896, and prior to her conviction was an internationally known aviatrix and was prominently associated in aviation circles.

ACTION

None. The above is for your information.

*I am making no  
appt. D*

*d.*

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice**

New York, N. Y.  
January 5, 1950.

Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Mohr	.....
Tele. Room	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Director, FBI

RE: MISS LAURA H. INGALLS

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Bureau's letter of December 1, 1949 (Bufile #100-34712) addressed to Miss Laura H. Ingalls, 105 West 78th Street, New York, N.Y. The Bureau instructed that in the event Miss Ingalls contacted me, the Bureau should be advised promptly of her purpose and any information supplied.

This is to advise that Miss Ingalls called on me at the New York office on January 4, 1950. She talked at considerable length, stating that notwithstanding her conviction in the District of Columbia in 1942, she is loyal to the United States and to American ideals. She inquired of me as to whether it would be possible for the FBI to conduct an investigation of her activities since her release from prison and thereafter furnish her with a letter or statement to provide "clearance" to her in connection with any employment she might seek or business venture in which she might engage. I informed her that the FBI has no authority to conduct an investigation for such a purpose. She advised that prior to her conviction she had made several inquiries of the FBI with respect to possible employment, each time with negative results, and more recently she had unsuccessfully sought a position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Miss Ingalls further advised that a few months ago she visited Alaska and became interested in the possibility of operating a number of restaurants at various airports in Alaska. She said that from talking with persons in Alaska she understood that some type of "clearance" would be necessary in order for her to operate at these airports. She said that following her return to the United States she heard from a friend in Alaska with whom she thought she might go in business that a rumor had been circulated there that she had been up there to act as a spy, and she mentioned that a number of people in Alaska had seen an article which appeared in True Magazine a few months ago which described her as a traitor. She was also under the impression that the FBI conducted some investigation of her activities in Alaska. She said that everything she has done since her release from prison, both in Alaska and elsewhere, has been open and above board, and she would invite a thorough and complete investigation by the FBI and would

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cc: Anchorage

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Director  
NY 100-14257

be very glad to answer any questions which the FBI might desire to ask her at any time. I explained to her the functions of the FBI as a fact-finding agency and that the FBI does not give "clearances" to anyone. She asked what she should do to obtain "clearance" which she understands is necessary in order to operate a restaurant business at Alaskan airports, and from whom such a clearance should be secured. I informed her I was not familiar with what the procedure would be in Alaska in a matter of this nature, other than to say that it was not in the jurisdiction of the FBI. She mentioned that she expected to be in Washington some time in the next several weeks and would probably contact someone at the Civil Aeronautics Authority as well as someone at the Air Force, since these agencies appear to have an interest in airports in Alaska, and therefore might be in a position to apprise her whether or not it would be possible for her to operate restaurants at airports there as she hopes to do. She did not indicate any intention of calling at the Bureau again, and I was noncommittal with respect to her statement that she planned to talk with CAA and the Air Force.

At the Weekly Intelligence Conference on January 5, 1950, I mentioned the information furnished by Miss Ingalls, as being of possible interest particularly to the Air Force OSI representatives.

Very truly yours,

*Edward Scheidt*  
EDWARD SCHEIDT  
SAC

*Suggest Liaison here  
advise Air Force.*

*1-12-50*

*O.S.I. already  
has this info.*

*K.*